Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
CLIR

https://archive.org/details/alaskaspeciesacc00chil_0

# H. E. Childs
## 1951-1963

## Alaska

## Species Accounts Part 2

Birds: Laridae - Fringillidae

Mammals

Fish

# H. E. Childs
## 1951-1963

## Alaska

## Species Accounts Part 2

### Birds: Laridae - Fringillidae

Childs
1951

Pomarine Jaeger
Stercorarius pomarinus

Point Barrow, Alaska

June 10 One flew over the edge of Elson Lagoon while we laid out the transect.

June 12 2 flew over Elson Transect in the a.m.

June 13 Same a.m.

June 14 A light phase flew over the point in the a.m. and 2 groups of 4 over the LW in the afternoon.

June 16 4 light phase flew over LE in the a.m.

June 18 1 over LE

June 30 A flock of 7 flew over in V-formation at LW

Aug. 11 A light phase bird was on the beach at Birnirk

Childs
1955

Stercorarius pomarinus

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
Several seen yesterday including one apparently feeding on insects on the ground. None seen today in the same area.

June 30 Nest deserted; eggs broken + obviously eaten that Mahn + McNab banded bird yesterday.

July 1 Last two days have been outstanding in the absence of jaegers of all kinds, at least in the air

July 19 Wainwright, Alaska
One flew along shore today

July 23 the absence of anything but an occasional straggler after the first day here is an unexplained mystery. With so many lemmings there should have been more.

Childs
1957

Stercorarius pomarinus

June 11 Wainwright, Alaska
Perhaps as many as 20 of these out from the village. One was a dark phase.

June 18 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
A flock of 7 seen over Loon Marsh today, first definite record of this species here

22 June collected one attracted to our garbage

18 July On reading Portenko atol again I believe most, if not all, of the Pomarinus seen here have been first year birds, with short rectrices.

6/22 2604 5TA 640

Childs
1958

# Stercorarius pomarinus

26 May Wainwright, Alaska
Saw about 25 in varying size groups near the whaling camps 10 miles out on the ice. None seen near shore yet

28 May Saw 30-40 jaegers (sp?) on return trip to Barrow. Scattered small flocks.

30 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several seen while setting up camp.

31 May None seen.

1 June One seen

4 June Yesterday there was one dark phase and today one light phase over marsh. They appear to be only passing through and not seriously hunting or settling.

7 June Several individuals and a flock of 7 moved west today.

15 June shot an apparently crippled bird that came to scraps near our meat rack.

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi. SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete saw one?

Childs
1959

# Stercorarius pomarinus

16 June | Barrow, Alaska

Several pairs set up on gas-line road. Saw one eating lemming.

17 June | Barrow to Oliktok Point

Probably less than 100 seen in this long flight.

24 June | Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Maher has found several nests. Refer to his notes

28 June | During last several days there have been flocks of up to 26 in loon marsh but today with clear, warm weather they are gone and all is quiet.

29 June | 14 on river above camp bathing

4 July | The mass movement of Pomarine Jaegers to the west continues. During the late running of the trap line flocks of up to 30 have been resting on the tundra in West Marsh.

12 July | Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

None seen so far.

18 July | Wainwright, Alaska

One seen passing over the ridge. Jaegers (sp?) seen associated with flocks of Sabine's gulls frequently along coast from Pitmegea to Barrow and return to Wainwright.

20 July | No more than a handful of sight records during the 4 days here. Jaegers uncommon.

Childs 1960

## Stercorarius pomarinus

24 May Barrow, Alaska

They arrived today. 4-5 seen near Voth area, appearing to be in transit

25 May Many present now. Territorial behavior seen near gas well.

26 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Flock of 7 flew over - not interested in tundra

June 1 Flock of 4 circling high over river.

Childs
1963

# Stercorarius pomarinus

16 June Wainwright, Alaska

Found the nest of the only pair in the immediate area of the trap line

21 June Barrow, Alaska

Found 4 nests. One near Wohlschlag slough had a melanistic bird in pair.

5 July Dave shot a ♂ jaeger near So Meadow Lake and had to beat a jaeger out of the specimen. a little while later as we approached the ♀ the jaeger, probably the same bird, attacked it and was driven off by the ♀ duck who jumped up several times to attack the jaeger. Once the ♀ hit the jaeger on the chest. The duck was collected after the jaeger left.

Another jaeger was observed eating insects along with 3 or 4 Phalaropes. 3 Chironomids were found in the spot when the birds were flushed.

11 August Wainwright, Alaska

The pair whose nest I found on 6/16 are still on station and attack each time I run traps yet no juvenile has been seen but it must be present.

Childs
1951

Parasitic Jaeger
Stercorarius parasiticus

June 9 Point Barrow, Alaska.
The first Jaeger that we have been able to identify with certainty flew over the transect area this morning, although we have seen jaegers everyday.

June 12 A dark phase bird flew over the transect at Elson Lagoon. Later a similar (and perhaps identical) bird landed and appeared to drink.

June 13 3 in a group flew over Elson Transect, 2 dark & 1 light.

~~June 18 One over LE~~

June 20 A dark phase over marsh in a.m.

June 28 2 " " flew over salt pond SW camp

July 7 2 dark phase flew over N end L W; Frank saw a size difference ∴ = pair.

July 13 We saw 3 on the W side of the marsh, 2 acting like a pair. 2 were dark phase

July 14 The pair of dark phase birds were seen in the same area feeding on the ground.

July 16 Same pair seen together on the ground. One could have been taken as we approached quite close to it. It had apparently been feeding on a longspur

Aug 7 East Oumalik, 110 mi. SSE Barrow, Alaska
This species was the most common and both phases were noted for the first time. There were also individuals in the dark phase with white flashes in the primaries. One was collected.

Childs
1955

# Stercorarius parasiticus

June 27 Point Barrow, Alaska
a black phase bird flew over chased by a piper S. of the lab.

June 28 one black phase near live plot #2.

July 15 Wainwright, Alaska
One light phase + several dark towards marsh. Breeding may be going on from the noise in that direction.

July 19 none since the above.

July 21 1 black phase over the marsh.

July 28 Point Barrow, Alaska
Collected a light phase who was with a dark phase - that got away.

Childs
1957

Stercorarius parasiticus

June 15 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska.
2 seen, one a dark phase
June 17 2 dark phase birds feeding on meat scrapes at edge of bar. I do not recall ever seeing a pair of dark phase birds together before.
June 18 See S. longicaudus
22 June The jaeger picture changes from day to day. No pomarinus seen for several days. Parasiticus wanders along river and over marshes but does not appear to be settling. A few long-tails may be territorial.
27 June Saw a pair of dark phase birds. Not many of them left around here now.
5 July Only an occasional bird seen now. Just one today.
9 July Regular at garbage during bad weather.
16 July This species is common along the bar near camp attracted by our garbage. I do not believe they go much farther up the river. Most of them are dark phase birds but there is a great variation in intensity of color, some looking like crows and others quite light. They do not come as close to the tent as longicaudus.
19 July Camp A. Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
A few scattered individuals passing thru the area.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6/19 | 2581 | ♂ A2 | 457g |
| 7/7 | 2632 | ♂ A | 429 |
| | 33 | ♂ A | 370 |
| 7/8 | 2636 | ♀ | 476 |

5 Aug. ~~area~~ First evidence of breeding in this area was obtained when a juvenile accompanied by parents was seen on lithosol near where we shot 2 caribou across the river. It begged and flew after adults. It had what appeared to be a deep red-brown tail with a dark band on the end but otherwise looked like the juvenile long tails seen previously.

14 Aug Several chased a raven away from landing at our garbage.

Childs
1958

# Stercorarius parasiticus

30 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine Alaska

Several of these in the area.

31 May None seen

1 June " "

2 June a black bird over West Marsh

3 June 2 feeding on garbage at river

19 June One near lagoon. Occasional one seen on river.

4 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Two seen passing through.

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

A pair of dark phase feeding on marsh. One seen on the ground with wings out spread + hopping as if reading a mouse.

28 July Two dark phase with 2 young flying birds

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

These seem to be more abundant than L.T.'s now.

Childs
1959

Stercorarius parasiticus

24 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Maher has located several nests.
Thus all 3 species are breeding here.

12 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
A dark phase bird seen near T 12 - 10.0
several times last night

17 July Wainwright, Alaska
2 seen. Eskimo boys reported finding one
nest about 2 weeks ago.

9 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Still present in small numbers.

Childs
1960

Stercorarius ~~pomarinus~~ parasiticus

26 May Ptarmigan River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One flew over while I was setting traps.

Childs
1963

Stercorarius parasiticus

3 July Barrow, Alaska

One seen south of Central Marsh. Theey are rare this year.

31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

A pair, one dark, across river, and another on Loon Marsh in areas where they have always been.

CHILDS
1951

Long-tailed Jaeger

Stercorarius longicaudus

July 3 Point Barrow, Alaska

Gil & I were dragging LE when we ran into a flock of about 10 of these. I went back & got the guns & proceeded to take 5 of them. After shooting the 1st, the rest of them milled around me so it was duck soup. One came so close that I could have gotten it with the pistol but that was back in ARL

646 ♂ HEC no food in esophagus - stomach contents saved (sperm mass made)

647 ♀ " egg (phalarope?) " " - " " "
well dev'd B.P.; ovary regressing.

see journal.

July 7 A group of 11 along shore of LE in a.m. which moved N as we censused the area

July 17 One light phase bird swooped down on me on LE

July 18 Setzer brought in 6 of these & one Parasitic from East Oumalik. He estimated 35 in the area. Parasitic nesting.

Aug. 7 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

When we first arrived at this locality the numbers of this species about equaled that of parasiticus. By now, however, there are hardly any to be seen now and both species are rare. I was unable to get close enough to shoot any although the first few nights they woke us up with their calling & chasing gulls close to camp.

Childs
1955

# Stercorarius longicaudus

June 28 Point Barrow, Alaska
One flying west over LW in p.m.
June 29 One " " at point at 2100
July 5 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska
There were 10-15 present in the area this a.m. Some fighting & chasing seen. One harassed the only Snowy Owl seen. No other jaegers seen today. One landed in a garbage area last night.
July 6 Few seen today.
July 7 Drew found nest S of coal mine. Charles found one N of the village with one egg. Birds did not display very violently.
July 10 Found one of the nests S of the Coal Mine 3 birds actively attacked us as we observed the nest. One landed on my back and pecked my hat. By sliding my hand up I was able to catch it and Chuck took pictures of it.
July 15 Wainwright, Alaska
A group of 3 + 1 seen this afternoon. Not settled.
July 19 None seen since the above except offshore
Aug 5 Several seen in the last few days.
Aug 14 The only jaeger seen on the tundra in several weeks.

Child Cs
1957

Stercorarius longicaudus

June 10 Mouth of the Pitmegea River, Alaska
One or 2 seen here as well as Agiak Lagoon.

June 11 Wainwright, Alaska
These seem to be closer to the village than the Pomarines. Boys shot 3 Long Tails & one Pomarine near graveyard.

June 15 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several flocks of 6-8 seen as well as singles or pairs. They appear to be settling.

June 18 Long-Tails seem to be the only species of the three which give evidence of settling down and defending area. At the north end of Loon Marsh a pair actively "dive-bombed" members of a group of Pomarines and Parasitics that flew thru, chased and then returned to the original area. Jaegers of all species were active today over the marsh and along the river. A flock of 7 Pomarines and another of 6 Parasitics were seen. The Long-Tails are scattered. Several were sitting on mounds in the polygon area of Loon Marsh near $T_2$. The cries of the Long tails remind me of Eskimo dogs howling at Wainwright

June 19 With the clearing weather, the majority of Jaegers have disappeared. One L.T. still chasing and calling near stream to N of Loon Marsh.

24 June Cantlon reported nest with eggs 3 miles up river along stream.

7/7 2634 9A 284

27 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
I found the nest mentioned above – 2 eggs. adults dive bombed me. I suspected another nest in same drainage but did not find it.

29 June One seen diving on raven near Falcon rock

4 July Found one downy young (black) to north of $T_5$ in area where behavior of adults made me suspect a nest earlier. The adults mimicked the notes of a pectoral sandpiper giving the broken wing act. I never would have suspected it if I hadn't gotten within 10' of one adult while he gave it on the ground and in flight when he took off.

7 July A long-tail was diversely hunting small sandpipers on the bar near the tent today.

10 July I gave a bad time to a Gyrfalcon this morning.

14 July Saw a Long-Tail kill a juv Pectoral. It dove down and apparently killed it immediately as seconds later I flushed it. the jaeger carried it off about 200' and another joined it. I ran as fast as I could, scared them both off, and identified the prey. Already most of the skin of the neck and back was torn and eaten. This may be the pair with the young bird although I haven't seen the young one since. the herd of caribou could have finished it yet I have seen territorial chasing in this area since

Childs 1957



## S. longicaudus

14 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

the 6th. The traps lines in that area have been used by the jaegers, about half dozen longspurs and sandpipers being eaten. I flushed one who carried traps about 50'. The aggressive chasing was directed to parasiticus also but both species did not seem to respond to it and they flew directly across the area.

16 July Jaegers congregate, particularly parasiticus along the river by our garbage during wet, or low ceiling windy days. I watched 2 longtails, one resting against the bluff behind the tent and another a few feet away. The latter was feeding actively on insects or plant material; I suspect the former as the area is one of deep snow and there is little green material there now. I have neglected to note the stomachs of all jaegers collected contained just our garbage. In this matter I have goofed and should collected a series over the tundra. No dark phase bird of this species have been seen.

17 July During the night 4 came in to caribou parts and they made a hell of a noise squabbling among themselves.

Childs
1957

S. longicaudus

4

19 July Camp A. Pitmegea River, ~ in Cape Sabine, Alaska

These birds are fairly common here occurring in groups of 2 to 10. One group of 5 was feeding on insects/or vegetation while resting on a slope. No chasing or territorial activities seen. Doubt the presence of nesters. Saw one chase a Parasitic.

23 July Remains of 3 found in Duck Hawk nest about 16 miles SE Cape Sabine. Since Camp A there have been almost no jaegers seen; just an occasional single long-tail or parasitic along the river.

30 July Most jaegers seen along river are now parasiticus. Found the young L.T. near the lithosol where first seen. It can now fly although the parents are still in attendance. It begged and parents flew to it when I walked by or I wouldn't have seen it. It is practically black with gray flecks in the tail. When it flew up the wind blew it all over the place so it landed almost immediately. The caribou apparently did not harm it as I has suspected earlier and thus we have at least one successful nesting this year.

2100. One long-tail came in to our caribou

30 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

we had to discard, a piece of sediment near the tent. 2 dark phase parasiticus were attracted to some other at the edge of the river 50' away. The long-tail gave a threat display, leaning over forward and calling a "chow" and flew directly at them. There was no doubt that he was the owner and the parasites were trespassing. They retreated from his aerial attacks but one stayed and was hit forcefully by the diving long-Tail. The impact could be heard clearly. He won out eventually and the Parasiticus flew off down stream. He was then joined by another L.T. with no animosity shown.

Aug. 1 Young bird on lithosol again with both parents in attendance. Got within 15 ft for pictures. adults give a warning "chowp" and young gives a whizzing "cheany chow chow".

Aug. 2 Found an adult with a juvenile across the river on the first terrace. I had been slightly suspicious of a nest in that area but had been unable to confirm it.

6. Aug Young jaeger on owl ridge and lithosol nearby above. Still begging.

Childs
1957

S. longicaudus



15 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Today we looked for the juvenile in the area where it had been seen regularly. It was last seen there the 12th and still dependent. It was there ~~no~~ longer although one adult was present and allowed close approach. It certainly must be a member of that pair. No other L.T.'s have been seen for several days.

16 Aug adult gone.

Childs
1958

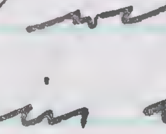
# Stercorarius longicaudus

30 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Maybe 10 in area. Saw a pair give chase to a single bird who paid no attention to them; I would say that they were on territory already

31 May Same. Maybe 3 pairs on study area this year.

1 June Watched pair from our side drive pair across river. When they reached the far shore the attacking pair returned and the invaders sat on river bank

4 June While walking across Loon Marsh to $T_2$ this morning at 1050 I observed copulation in this species. When first noted the ♂ was already mounted with wings arched downward in a rather graceful and unusual position . This wing position may have been used for balance but it did not so appear. The ♂ appeared to "tread water". There was considerable movement of the tails but I could not see the details from the angle from which I watched. Several times the ♂ grasped the neck feathers of the ♀, a movement which did appear to aid in maintenance of balance. At the end the ♂ stood on the ♀ for several seconds just looking around. Then moved off to higher

Childs
1958

S. longicaudus

4 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

spot on the Owl Mound while the ♀ arched the long tail feathers upward. The whole performance lasted at least 30 seconds. It was not the quick "kiss" of passerines. The ♀ then flew 200' to a pond and appeared to eat insects or moss. There was a nervous ♂ Old-squaw on the pond (20'x30'). A minute or so later the ♂ Jaeger flew to the ♀ and they greeted one another with a short call and a posturing with tail raised 45°. The ♂ then flew, circling the pond (looking for Old-squaw nest?) and landed 40' away from ♀ and started to feed. They were feeding less than 100' away from the destroyed nest of longspurs found on first census

7 June Found nest w/2 on a mound in the same area on West Marsh where a pair successfully nested last year. The ♀ acted like she had a nest, scolding me as I searched, but then she went right back to her nest and sat so I walked right to it

Several flocks of 5-7 moved west today

12 June I believe the nest in West Marsh is destroyed. Could not find it today.

18 June Could not find nest near Plot 1. Believe it gone also.

Childs
1958

S. longicaudus

23 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

10 were feeding sociably on the terrace across the river this afternoon and evening which tends to confirm my impression that the nesting has been a failure here this year.

5 July Pitmegea River, 16 mi. SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

A few have been seen passing through. No signs of nesting.

6 July A few seen along the north fork, one with no long central rectrices.

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Several in area. Pete saw a young one inland (?)

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

A few present, Parasiticus seem more abundant.

Childs
1959

# Stercorarius longicaudus

24 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Many pairs nesting. See Maher's notes. One pair behind tent, apparently territorial but not nesting. 1815 Threw a microtus carcass to one of the above pair and it flew to it immediately. It then carried it to the far end of the bar and called once, loudly, as if for mate. A Pomarine came down river and the long tail flew up & protected the meat while the pomarine veered off. The other long tail arrived and they both ate & tugged on the mouse for about 5 minutes. Then they both flew to the river and washed their bills and drank considerable water

26 June Jaegers are cargling traplines regularly now. Several traps of mice gone per line per run.

28 June Nest near T3-7.0 not hatched but odd shaped egg appeared cracked.

29 June Koranda reported odd-shaped egg gone

30 June Saw a 1st year bird with adult on bluff. It had grey collar and speckled tail coverts. It was smaller than adult and lacked central rectrices.

1 July Nest across stream to west fenced in had one chick and the other egg pipped. Adults hit me on the head.

Childs
1959



S. longicaudus

11 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Located the chick (stumbled onto it!) of a pair on first terrace behind camp. It disgorged pellet containing M. oeconomus + longspur parts.
12 July Another pair is located upstream near large pond. Not abundant.
21 July Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska
One found dead behind village. No other jaegers seen.
9 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Still present. A small flock seen in last few days.

Childs
1960

Stercorarius longicaudus

26 May Barrow, Alaska
Three seen on Loon Marsh, one possibly chasing. Very little jaeger activity.

June 1 Very few around. One pair on all of Loon & west marsh — shifting with the traplines from which they are getting some birds & mice.

Childs
1963

Stercorarius longicaudus

12 July Bernard River, Banks Island NWT, Canada
This is the only jaeger present here. Maher says they tried to breed but nests all destroyed
20 July A flock of 25 were seen on the tundra near Footprint Lake
23 July 6 feeding on insects? at edge of Fresh Lake
28 July Cape Thompson, Alaska
Several pairs seen in area.
31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One, possibly 2 pairs in whole area.
A pair c a flying juvenile seen on ridge to Falcon Rock.

childs
1958

Larus canus

20 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Pete shot 2 of these that I thought were Kittiwakes but after seeing them guarding territory for several days decided that they must be this species. We collected two today as we fed the first 2 to the Rough-leg. They were found guarding an island downstream just above the stream running from the lakes to the river

19 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

An adult with a dependant juvenile moved on to our bar this morning before we got up. Every time we go out, it scolds and dives at us. The jaegers give it a bad time.

Childs
1959

# Larus canus

23 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One seen on bar near Falcon Rock

25 June Several at mouth of river

12 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
a pair upriver probably nesting from the way they behaved.

1 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One along river.

7 Aug 4 im & 2 adults on our bar. Adults scold whenever we leave the tent (which is not often now!)

Childs
1960

Larus canus

28 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One flew down river to cabin.

Childs
1951

Glaucous Gull
Larus hyperboreus

June 8 Point Barrow, Alaska
I collected one out of a flock of 6 in the open water south of camp. there were none there today (9th). Gulls assumed to be this species are generally in sight along the ocean ice.

June 11 There were 2 hovering over a pond of open water north of the air-strip in the pm.

June 12 2030 one flew over south of camp.

June 22 They are regular along the edge of the ocean ice near T1

June 29 Immature birds are showing up along the shore back of camp.

July 8 At least 40 were feeding on the garbage in the open water near T1. Birds in immature plumage are showing up.

July 10 Umiat, 400 ft, Alaska
Several small groups + single birds were seen following the river

Aug 1 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska
Flocks of 10 or more were seen feeding in the dump areas around camp. but towards the end of our stay became fewer, no doubt due to cases of lead poisoning. One bird taken ~~was~~ showed evidence of recent nesting with atretic follicles in the ovary.

Childs
1955

Larus hyperboreaus

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
About 10 on the fresh water lake.
July 2 About 30 " " " " ", a few seen flying over the Tundra near Voth's area.
July 5 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska
quite abundant along the river.
July 15 Wainwright, Alaska
Occasional along the shore.

Childs
1957

# Larus hyperboreus

June 10 Enroute to Wainwright, Alaska
Seen commonly in ponds and lagoons to S of Pt. Lay. Cade saw one on nest near Icy Cape.

June 15 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
2 flying up river.

22 June collected one.

7 July 5 attracted to caribou guts on bar

16 Aug Present along river regularly

6/22 2603 9A 1092

Childs
1958

Larus hyperboreus

18 May Barrow, Alaska

Several flew over behind the lab.

22 May Probably 100 around camps now. Rausch, Max, Tim, and I collected 4 with difficulty. Their weights were as follows: 1358g : 1692g : 1563g ♂ : 1043g ♀. The first two are to be made into skins by Harry Brower for the lab. the last two Rausch got the Cestodes. Shot another after supper ♀ 1250g foll 4mm

26 May Wainwright, Alaska

A few seen out at the whaling camps over the rough ice.

28 May 10-20 seen scattered on bare spots on tundra on return from Wainwright.

1 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

A few seen near the mouth of the river.

9 June About 35 seen on bar down river.

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

2 seen in flight

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Flock of 20± in estuary.

Childs
1958

Larus ~~glaucescens~~ hyperboreus

10 June Ptarmigan River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Two gulls I took to be glaucous-winged were seen in with several adult glaucous in our garbage. They were immature birds, both with white primaries and black tips to their bills. One was all white with scattered brown feathers, the other had grey coming in to the inner part of the wing. Missed a shot with the 30-30! Just as well!

1 July a number of these birds at river mouth which must be immature L. hyperboreus

Childs
1959

Larus hyperboreus

17 June Barrow, Alaska
A number seen in flight at Oliktok Point.

21 June Headwaters of Ipewik R., Alaska
Colony of 80± gulls on island in center of small lake.

24 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One flew over tent this a.m.

25 June Several at mouth of river

18 July Wainwright, Alaska
One flew over ridge.

22 July Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska
One over river.

31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Flock of 200± resting along river out of the wind — all age classes.

Childs
1960

Larus hyperboreus

23 May Barrow, Alaska

6 or more seen on central marsh in areas of thin snow obviously hunting lemmings.

24 May Same in Voth area

25 May Same near gas well

Childs
1963

Larus hyperboreus

5 July Barrow, Alaska
The usual scavengers are to be seen along the shore.
20 July a fflock of 8 seen on the tundra W of Cakeater.

Childs
1951

Sabine's Gull
Xema sabinii

Point Barrow, Alaska

June 11 Frank reported one flying over the point in the afternoon

June 14 2 or more over the marsh in the p.m.

June 16 1 on the ice in the marsh

Childs
1955

Xema sabini

July 14 Wainwright, Alaska
Saw a flock of 10 along coast from the plane
July 16 Several seen in the pack ice on way out walrus hunting.
July 31 ~~Point~~ Barrow, Alaska
Hurley reports many at the Point.
Aug 4 Many hundreds along shore near inlet to the salt lagoon!

Childs
1957

<u>Xema sabini</u>

<u>June 10 Enroute to Wainwright, Alaska</u>
a few seen from plane.

7/7 2635 ØL 383

Childs
1958

Xema sabini

4 June Pitmegea River Cape Sabine Alaska
Collected a beautiful one of three
seen along the shore.

1 July Immature seen at river mouth.

Childs
1963

*Xema sabini*

11 July — Bernard River, N.W.T., Canada

Saw about 6 SW of camp. Maher has a nest found there and bird was on the nest

CHILDS
1951

# KITTYWAKE
## RISSA TRIDACTYLA

July 26 Point Barrow, Alaska

Wiggins shot 2 out in the boat which he gave to me. We now are sure that this is what we have been getting glimpses of off shore during the last couple of weeks.

Childs
1955

~~Larus canus~~
Rissa tridactyla

July 19 Wainwright, Alaska
~~Saw~~. Small groups along the shore ice
Collected one.

July 22 Regularly offshore now.

Childs
1955

Rissa tridactyla

July 18 Wainwright, Alaska
a group of 3 seen over ice offshore.
July 30 Point Barrow, Alaska
Maher reported them in the icepacks.

Childs
1955

Rhodostethia rosea

June 28 Point Barrow, Alaska
Found a dead bird on beach near the point. Obviously shot sometime ago. Maggots in eyes + ears. Made a poor skin of what should have been a skeleton!

Childs
1957

# Rissa tridactyla

June 18 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One seemingly ill bird on the bar — could not collect it.

20 June many along coast at river mouth.

26 June " " " " " "

10 July a few small flocks seen along coast & Thetis Creek

15 Aug 4 seen at river mouth.

6/21 2602 57A 386

Childs 1958

# Rissa tridactyla

31 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

One flew over camp.

7 June Pete shot 2 at the coast.

9 June a flock of 10+ flew along the coast

12 June several in ice of river.

24 June Number seen along ice offshore

29 June 2 on the river tonight

1 July Numbers along coast and in offshore ice.

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Pete shot 2 and 4 more dive-bombed on sand bar in river. Why this aggression here? = Larus canus?

# *Rissa tridactyla*

Adults
1959

| | |
|---|---|
| 25 June | Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska |
| | Many seen + heard over ice offshore. |
| 1 July | " " " " " " |
| 4 July | " " " " " " |
| 7 Aug | 1500 + resting on spit. |

Childs
1959

# Pagophila eburnea

31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Bill Maher and I saw one along the coast north of the river and near the lagoon. A north wind has been blowing hard for 5 days and probably blew it in shore. No doubt about the identity in our mind.

Childs
1951

Arctic Tern
Sterna paradisaea

June 10 Point Barrow, Alaska
Two flew over the marsh near the first ridge about 1700 this evening, apparently the first arrivals.

June 13 They were present in numbers on the marsh south of first ridge, arriving in numbers with the red phalaropes and others

June 14 A pair lit on a snow hummock on the marsh in the p.m.

June 16 8 in a flock over the marsh

June 25 Group of 5 over marsh transect very noisy

June 28 Found one dead on the marsh in good condition

June 29 A couple along spit from the point

July 7 Rose brought back 6 from the point, some still in winter plumage; others had brood patches.

Childs
1955

Sterna paradisaea

June 28 Point Barrow, Alaska
Several seen at the pass to Deadman I.
July 1 2 near Salt Lagoon.
July 10 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska
1 or 2 over marsh SW of Village
July 15 Wainwright, Alaska
a few along the coast.

Childs
1957

## Sterna paradisaea

June 18 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Flock of 15 overhead at camp.

June 19 Some fishing down river.

20 June Many " " "

10 July 4 dive-bombed me at Thetis Creek although the area did not appear good for nesting.

16 July We found one downy young about 6-8" long on spit. Primaries just starting to break covering. It was rolled over and over by wind but finally squatted behind a rock.

23 July Pitmegea River, 15 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
One was seen fishing at the main tributary running to the east.

Childs 1958

Sterna paradisaea

31 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
4 flew up river.
9 June A number in ice off river
24 June Collected one along spit by lagoon
22 July Pitmegea River, 1 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
2 seen with Short-billed Gulls
29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Quite numerous, say 50, on the sand spit. I shot an immature and got an adult also. The immature landed on the island so I had to return to camp for the boat & get it. The adult landed at my feet. A downy young took to the water at my approach and one adult dove & hit my head.

Childs
1959

# Sterna paradisaea

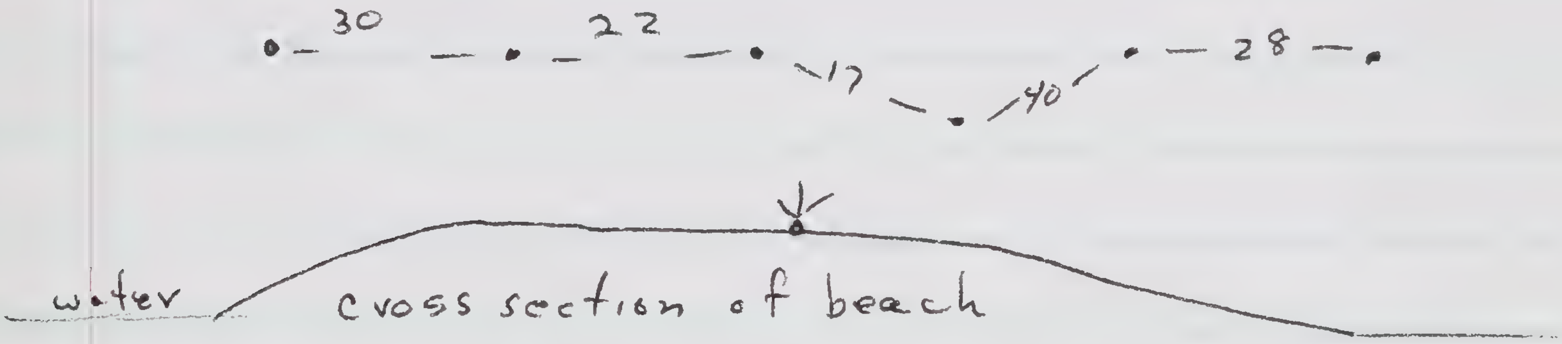
17 June Barrow, Alaska

Many seen along the Meade and Colville

25 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

4 nests w/2 eggs located on bar fairly close to cabin in flotsam

29 June Koranda and I found 6 nests located as follows:




The nests were located on the lagoon side of the beach slightly below the highest point and in the lee of rocks or flotsam.

4 July West of cabin along coast watched several terns hunting. One caught a fish and flew to beach. It flew when I came along. The fish was a Tom-cod at least 6" long.

31 July Present at spit.

8 Aug Same. Apparently nests were unsuccessful.

Childs
1960

Sterna paradisaea

26 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One flew over the tundra.

Childs
1963

# Sterna paradisaea

1 July | Barrow, Alaska
One seen at the Lagoon at Village

12 July | Banks Island, NWT., ~~Alas~~ Canada
Several seen along streams between Sachs Harbor + Bernard River.

20 July | One seen near Masoavik Lake

30 July | Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several pairs feeding young at mouth of river

Childs
1955

Uria ~~aalge~~ lomvia

July 16 Wainwright, Alaska
Very abundant in & around the ice pack
July 23 Point Barrow, Alaska
Several washed up on the beach.
July 30 Maher saw many offshore. Also an auklet or murrelet of some kind

Childs
1957

Uria lomvia

2 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska.
Several flocks of 10 or more plus several individuals were seen off the river mouth this morning.

10 July Several along the coast

27 July Several washed up on sand spit + eaten

Childs
1958

Uria lomvia

9 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Collected 2 in the ice off the river.
A number of flocks of up to 10 individuals
were seen

12 June 40 + in lead offshore.

24 June A number seen along ice offshore

Childs
1959

Uria sp

21 June Cape Thompson, Alaska

Murres were present in abundance on the cliffs. (Mahn & Cade saw none 29 May 1959).

Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

29 June Flocks flying west along ice

4 June " " " " "

31 July One in estuary.

7 Aug Large numbers moving north along coast in evening.

Childs
1960

Uria sp

28 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several small flocks seen over the ice.

Childs
1955

Cepphus ~~columba~~ grylle ~~(?)~~

July 16 Wainwright, Alaska
One seen in flight offshore
July 30 Point Barrow, Alaska
Maher reported several offshore in the icepack
Aug 8 Pete brought one in (HEC 2199)

Childs
1955

Brachyramphus brevirostris

Aug 10 Point Barrow, Alaska

Pete brought one in he shot out in the ice last night. He said there was more of them.

Childs 1959

Cyclorrhynchus psittacula

Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One washed up on beach.

Childs
1955

Fratercula corniculata

Aug 8 Point Barrow, Alaska

Pete brought one in he shot out in the ice. This appears from Bailey to be the first Barrow record of the species.

CHILDS
1951

TUFTED
[redacted] PUFFIN
LUNDA cirrhata

July 14 Point Barrow, Alaska

An eskimo brought one in that he had shot on the inlet north of the air field. It was one of two seen. Dr. Wiggins purchased it for $2.00 and hope is held out that the other will be obtained for us.

Aug. 15 Chester brought one in Taken near the village

Childs
1957

Snowy Owl

# Nyctea scandiaca

June 9 Point Barrow, Alaska

I found a pellet with a weasel skull in it on the mid-ridge where I set the trap line. We saw one near the eskimo village day before yesterday.

June 11 I picked up a well preserved specimen in the snow in the barrel dump. It apparently had starved to death.

June 12 0830 one flew across and landed south of camp as we were going out to the transects. It flew on as we approached in the weasel.

June 13 One flew across marsh south of first ridge from the mid-ridge and was chased by sandpipers and arctic Terns.

June 17 One was sitting on weather station on first ridge Frank shot at it but did not get it. The roost was checked for pellets but none found.

July 13 Someone reported seeing one 6 mi S. I do not remember details

July 15 Frank saw one on L W

July 17 One was at the edge of L E. It had been in the same place for some time and apparently ill judging from the feces which were green & stringy. There was another to the north 1/4 mi.

July 19 Both still present in the same area

Aug 7 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

there was no pellets to be found on the mounds in this area and no sign of this species although the Microtines were here in abundance.

Childs
1955

# Nyctea scandiaca

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
Observed two in the area, one near transect 2 and one near transect 3.

July 1 Two birds in the area near live plot 2 regularly.

July 5 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska
One seen chased by a long-tailed jaeger. 5 were seen from the plane on the way down.

July 9 One on ridge near $T_2$ at 2000.

July 15 Wainwright, Alaska
More dense here than I have ever seen them. We had 6 within a mile radius of us last night. Have not seen nests yet but I believe they may be here. Natives apparently trap them on hummocks by placing a steel trap on a log. Saw 2 carcasses along the shore ridge caught in this manner and several other traps. Heard them call and it bears no relation to an owl hoot.

July 19 The owls have mostly gone, only 2 out there today. They probably were blown inland by the high onshore winds. No evidence of breeding.

July 22 Although owls have been present here in some numbers, although less now, I have been unable to find a fresh owl pellet on many, many mounds I have looked at. The natives shoot them on sight – they say for dog food.

Nyctea scandiaca



July 23 Wainwright, Alaska

Owls not numerous on trip back although we flew at 200' or less. No fresh owl pellets found during the 9 day stay. Do they change their metabolism when food is short & digest bone? Their relative scarcity here where the lemmings are so abundant is very interesting. It would be nice to know how much the Eskimo shooting affects them.

Aug 6 Have been trying to shoot one for some time but they do not allow the approach such as they did earlier.

Childs
1957

# Nyctea scandiaca

June 10 Enroute to Wainwright, Alaska
Several seen south of Barrow.

June 11 Wainwright, Alaska
One seems to be settled north of the village

June 14 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
3 owl pellets yielded skull of all microtines except Clethrionomys using Bee + Hall for identification

5 July I have collected all of the owl pellets seen and intend to work them over this fall. Pellets are not abundant even on the large mounds which must serve as look-outs. Some of the pellets are undoubtedly from Short-eared Owls from their smaller size but if microtines are not abundant what is to stop a Snowy from tossing off a small pellet. It is a moot point as the prey species is the important thing although it would be interesting to know relative abundance of these two owls

19 July Camp A. Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Some pellets were collected on bluff tops. No adults seen.

30 July These pellets were not intact down so I washed all bones, etc. on these in camp. Almost no rodent bones seen. Prey appears to be mostly Ptarmigan.

Childs
1958

*Nyctea scandiaca*

18 May Barrow, Alaska

I saw what I interpreted to be a place where one landed and then had to run in order to take off. There were several places where the impressions of the primaries were seen

25 May Wainwright, Alaska

See journal & *Alopex* accounts for inland records by pilot. No owls here yet. Natives have traps on every mound on the ridge back of the village. Beal reported 2 owls at the Point near Christmas time. See journal

26 May Three were see flying 10 miles out on the ice at the whaling camp

28 May None seen on return trip from Wainwright

31 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Possibly two individuals seen. Collected a number of new pellets from Owl Ridge and lithosols to the West

5 June Pete saw one along coast

9 June One seen in ice offshore

11 June One on bluff behind camp.

17 June " " along coast near cabin.

19 June " " mt behind lagoon.

24 " " " bluff east of river mouth

Childs
1958

## N. scandiaca

30 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One feeding on caribou remains in West Marsh and one near Caribou Mt.

18 July Pitmegea River, 2 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete saw one on far mountain

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several in the area regularly now.

Aug 4 During the last few days Owls have been seen in some numbers. I saw 3 on one lithosol near the coast, 3 on another. Pete said that perhaps 20 were present on Caribou Mt. There is no doubt that a major influx of individuals has taken place in the last week.

9 Aug 17 seen in a 360° survey from ridge.

Childs
1959

# Nyctea scandiaca

17 June Near Meade River, Alaska
One seen from plane in flight to Olistok Point.

24 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
None present now. Cadle reported them here in numbers in May. I saw one near Lizz Pt. on June 21.

18 July Wainwright, Alaska
One seen. Reported as "more common than usual" earlier.

20 July Perhaps 5 between village and site. Skinned one for Eckels' boys. Some barring in feathers. Testis 7mm. Pellet in stomach preserved.

9 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
None seen to date by me. Maher has seen 2 in last 10 days along the shore.

Childs
1960

Nyctea scandiaca

23 May Barrow, Alaska

Although no birds were seen, pellets were found on the snow along the beach ridge.

25 May About 8 seen along gas well road and to the east of it. Found a nest w/6 near gas well.

26 May Very few seen on trip to Putuligayuk

2 June Putuligayuk River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

One flew north today. Only one seen this trip.

Childs
1963

Nyctea scandiaca

15 June Wainwright, Alaska
One seen on marsh. 6/17 none seen since.

5 July Barrow, Alaska
With only 3-4 owls in the entire area, the breeding of jaegers is very strange.

18 July Bernard River, Banks Island, N.W.T., Canada
Less than 6 seen either going or coming from Sachs Harbor to Bernard River.

20 July Barrow, Alaska
One seen near wanigan at Ikeravik.

31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
None seen at Cape Thompson or here. Few pellets found.

23 July Pt. Lay to Barrow - Observations by Brewer
Icy Cape to Wainwright - 10 owls
Wainwright to Peard Bay - 10 owls
Liz C to Skull Cliff - 6 owls
Skull Cliff to Monument - 9 owls
Monument to Village - 8 owls (6 near Monument)

CHILDS
1951

SHORT-EARED OWL ?

July 10 Umiat, 400 ft., Alaska

Gil + I flushed an owl which assume was this species from it roost at the base of some willows along the river. We were unable to find it again after it settled a 1/4 mile away.

Short-eared owl
is:
Asio flammeus
per AOU 1998

Childs
1957

Asio flammeus

June 12 Wainwright, Alaska
One was chased by a Pomarine Jaeger on the marsh to the east of transects $T_3$ & $T_4$

19 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Part of a wing was found across river at outcrop

Asio flammeus

Childs
1958

31 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One flew up river accompanied by a small shore-bird.
Pete reported seeing a nest of this species in early July last year 4 miles S of village at "Nunivak River". It contained 8 eggs.
1 June Pete saw one close by 1 mile upstream
2000 one flew north across the river, high.
4 June Saw one with Microtus in claws flying high to the NE from Owl Ridge. Perhaps there is a nest in that direction over the river.
10 June One flying over loon marsh.
23 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
One seen several times hunting over marsh

Childs
1959

Asio flammeus

17 June Barrow, Alaska
Pete reported 2 near Birnich. We saw 3 in flight & Olektoh Point.
18 June Pete reported 10 & the east of Birnich
23 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several of them around. Maher has located one nest.
26 June Several seen every day
1 July Owls seen giving display of clapping wings below body as it falls. There seems to be no reason for this at times.
17 July Wainwright, Alaska
One flushed in high & polygons.
18 July " " same "
22 July Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska
One found dead along river.
23 July Flushed one from grass along the landing strip.
31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Reproduction in 3 nests successful. Adults scold me now when I am in the territory

Childs
1960

Asio flammeus

28 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

three seen heading north this a.m. at least 6 more migrating north later in the day. No evidence that they even were investigating the area even.

Childs
1958

# Sayornis saya

6 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Collected a pair that were nesting in a cliff on a mountain 5-7 miles up the north fork of the Pitmegea. The nest was located too high to reach. A Rough-leg Hawk was building a nest 20-30 ft. above them.

Childs
1959

<u>Sayornis saya</u>

<u>23 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska</u>
A nest was found at Falcon Rock with 4 eggs

Childs
1957

Lanius excubitor

19 July Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Saw one adult and several young.
20 July Found nest in willow 6' high, nest in crotch at 4' and lined with caribou hair. Collected one young in evening on way downstream. At least 5 other shrikes present and flying distance making noise of begging, etc. During the next three days several other family groups were seen from boat, the last about 10 mi in.
24 July At various points above the 12 mile camp we saw at least 2 other broods of shrikes and an adult in another spot

7/20 2660 ♀ hm —

Childs 1958

Lanius excubitor

6 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Found a nest with 3 young just about ready to fledge. Nest located in the only tall Felt-leaf Willow at about 4 ft from ground. Willow about 6½ ft tall.

7 July Young had fledged when we returned today to take pictures. Adults very pugnacious and the ♀ hit my head three times with plenty of force as I took pictures of the young.

13 July Shot the ♀ adult

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Pete shot 2 fully grown juveniles out of 4 seen.

28 July The others remained nearby throughout stay.

Childs
1959

Lanius excubitor

26 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Maher found an old nest in tall willows across from Falcon Rock

CHILDS
1951

# RAVEN
Corvus corax

July 10 Umiat, Alaska

Several have flown over to the west.

Aug 1 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

There were at least 5 of these birds feeding around camp in company with the Glaucous gulls. Only 2 of them persisted ~~the~~ in their appearance throughout our stay in the area. They were very wary and would not allow our approach.

Childs
1957

Corvus corax

29 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Although we heard young calling that sounded like ravens and found black feathers under the cliff, we were all surprised to see one adult and to find that there were two nests on the small cliff. 2 mi. upstream. The adult came in close then flew high and disappeared. This nest is about 40' above the water and 3' below the top overhang — a very inaccessible place. The same holds true for the Duck hawk nest.

29 July One seen + heard flying up river toward nest.

14 Aug One flew down river accompanied by Parasitic Jaegers who wouldn't allow it to land at our garbage.

Childs
1958

# Corvus corax

30 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Two flew up river toward Falcon rock.
1 June One flying along the coast.
2 June One with several primaries & secondaries missing flew over ridge behind camp.
3 June Pair examined bear carcass but did not go into it.
4 June One seen from Wolverine Mt.
7 June One chased by Long tail Jaeger near bear corpse
10 June Pete collected one near Lagoon
14 June One around camp.
19 June One seen regularly in the area.
1 July They have not been seen in over a week.
8 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
One seen flying up river. Another seen yesterday
13 July " heard.
20 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
One flew over several times.
29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One or two near camp. One has a peculiar voice.
8 Aug 6 at carbon hills past 3rd Ridge.

Childs
1959

Corvus corax

24 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One made "bell" note over tent.

25 June One seen

31 July One seen several times and followed me north of river along the coast.

Childs
1958

Eremophila alpestris

6 July Pitmega River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Collected a young bird of a species I haven't the slightest idea of an identification. It was seen along a rocky ridge at the top of a fair sized mountain 5-7 miles up the north fork of the Pitmega River. It was associating with Longspurs but is larger. It may be a juvenile Wheatear as it wagged its tail and has white outer tail feathers, yet there was no indication of the white rump patch.

13 July On a farther ridge of the same mountain I saw another of these juvenile birds and collected an adult Horned Lark feeding young.

Childs
1959

Eremophila alpestris

13 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Maher reported them singing on bluff behind ~~camp~~. wolverine Mt.

Childs
1963

Eremophila
~~Otocoris~~ alpestris

11 July Bernard River, N.W.T., Canada
Saw one along edge of bluff.

Childs
1958

~~Riparia~~ Iridoprocne riparia

10 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete shot one of 2 that took refuge from the heavy rain in a hole in the bluff behind camp.

Childs
1960

## Iridoprocne bicolor

24 May Barrow, Alaska
Harry Brower collected one with a handful of sand!

Childs
1957

Tachycineta thalassina

10 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Two were seen actively flycatching near Falcon Rock in late afternoon

Childs
1959

## Hirundo erythrogaster

21 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

One of pair seen. These seen first on 17 June

22 June Pair landed on tent guy rope. ♂ song and expanded throat pouch

25 June Found one roosting in cabin at mouth of river. Fine habitat selection

27 June Pair flew around tent

28 June " " " "

29 June One bird still at cabin.

1 July Nest was found at cabin in outer room. Mud dabs along beam for several feet. Nest not completed.

4 July Bird still present but no additional enlargement of nest attempted.

12 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

One seen hawking over the river.

15 July Collected one flying around our tent. Strange that they are so attracted by such structures

7 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Nest measured 4½ x 2½". Bill saw adult after I shot the one ♂ inland

Hirundo rustica
(erythrogaster is a subspecies)

CHILDS
1951

Willow Warbler
Acanthopneuste borealis

June 18 Cape Lay, Alaska
Schiller brought me back from here & said they were common

June 19 Point Barrow, Alaska. Frank saw one on the all-night watch & Rose got 2 in his trap line.

June 22 Found one dead under the beacon at the Point.

July 10 Umiat, 400 ft., Alaska
There were many individuals of this species singing but they were hard to see. Only one was collected.

July 13 Point Barrow, Alaska
Chester brought one in found dead in camp. Quite old!

CHILDS
1951

# Red-spotted Bluethroat
## Cyanosylvia suecica

Aug 3 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska
I flushed a bird I took to be this species twice but did not get a shot at it.

Aug 4 Mayer and I ran the trap line and as we flushed a Ptarmigan while doing so, we decided to beat the remaining willow area. As we did so a juvenile bird flew up which I shot. Another was flushed later but I missed it.

Aug 5 A juvenile was taken in the trap line 50 yds to the west of the spot where the first bird was taken. They flush, fly to a bush and look around, then drop, making hunting difficult.

Aug 7 I shot one in the drainage ditch up on the hill at least 100 yds from the willows along a small stream. It was the only time that I saw it away from dense willows. It is strange that no adult birds were seen during the entire trips.

Childs
1957

Cyanosylvia suecica

24 July Pitmegea River, 12 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
collected an immature in willows near ponds
where white-winged scoter was seen.

6/24 2687 [illegible] 19.0

Childs
1958

# *Luscinia svecica*

24 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Pete brought back 3 he shot in willows along creek upstream. They were badly damaged as he had only 12 ga #6!

25 July Saw one in same spot but shot the Fox Sparrow near it instead and could not find it later.

CHILDS
1951

Wheatear O. oenanthe

~~Swinhoe's Wagtail~~

~~Motacilla alba~~

Aug. 7 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

I first got a glimpse of the bird which I take to be this species near camp along the ridge. Mayer & I both saw it & realized that it was different. The most outstanding field mark was the white rump which flashed when it flew. The second was seen at the foot of the hill along the road leading to the wind sock on the lake. Again the white rump brought our attention to the bird. We got closer to it in the weasel than before and could see the pale under parts (yellowish?) and the typical wagging of the body as in the Alaskan Wagtail. Unfortunately my shot missed. I went back the following night & hunted between plane trips but no sign of this bird or many others as only 7 birds were seen in nearly 3 hours of hill tramping.

Aug 13 Point Barrow, Alaska

Thompson took a Wheatear in his trap line which fits the description of the East Oumalik bird so the record must fall!

Childs
1957

Oenanthe oenanthe

15 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

During the misty rain after running the trap line, we went to the Long tail Jaeger lithosol at least 6 and probably more were seen, of which 4 were collected. They wag their tails, flashing the white band, like wagtails.

16 Aug At different times Brock and I covered the areas where Wheatears were seen yesterday and saw none. Last night Al saw 6 or more and collected only one. I got 2 near Owl Ridge, and missed one. I also missed a shot at one this morning along the bluff behind the tent.

8/15 2731 ♀ im 26.9 g

Brood ♂ 637 ♀ A
636 ♀ im ?

2735 ♀ im
36 ♀ im
37 ♂ im

Chilet 1958

Oenanthe oenanthe

8 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One shot near tent. No others seen on bluff behind tent.

9 Aug Searched hillsides without success for wheatears.

10 Aug Saw one on bluff when I went out to my trapline. Later I hunted the bluff and ridges in West Marsh. Saw 2 others. On return there were a number on the bluff and gravel bar near camp. I got 2 and Pete got 3

13 Aug Several on the bar and bluff behind Camp this morning but moved out by noon. Pete got one (I didn't skin it - too sick).

14 Aug Several on the bar

15 Aug Same

16 Aug "

17 Aug " . 3 on bluff.

21 Aug Present on bar everyday since 8/17.

childs
1959

Oenanthe oenanthe

May Ptarmigan River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Reported by Cade

CHILDS
1951

Grey-cheeked Thrush
Hylocichla minima

July 10 Umiat, Alaska
Several seen & heard calling. Frank saw young out of nest but could not obtain any.

Childs 1959

Hylocichla minima

May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Mathew reported 3 in May.

CHILDS
1951

# ROBIN

*Turdus migratorius*

July 9 Umiat Alaska

One has been present consistently back of camp

July 11 This individual could not be found this morning

Childs
1958

# *Turdus migratorius*

6 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Saw a pair of robins about ½ mile up the north fork of the Pitmegea. They acted as if tied to the area but I could not get close enough to ~~catch~~ shoot them or did I find the nest. In the same spot were the Yellowlegs and Wilson's Warbler

7 July Seen again but couldn't collect.

13 July Not seen here

17 July In a tall (10-12') willow thicket near V shaped lake I saw one badly molting.

Childs
1959

Ixoreus naevius

May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Cade reported one at Falcon Rock.

CHILDS
1951

# Alaskan Wagtail
## *Motacilla flava*

July 9 Umiat, Alaska
These are very common here and extremely noisy. They will follow one for one half hour flying 50 ft above your head giving their alarm call. Only once was I able to see one on the ground.

July 10 Wind does not seem to affect the activity of these birds. They appear to have young off the nest and are feeding young.

July 11 They were very quiet & did not continually scold this morning as they have generally in the last 2 days

Aug 7 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska
I would estimate this to be the most common bird or at least the most conspicuous bird in the area. It appeared to have no ecological preference as it would feed in the willows or on the tundra. They would fly up in alarm giving their alarm note upon our approach but they did not follow us as they did at Umiat. This is undoubtedly due to the facts that the breeding season was over and the lack of adult birds in the area. This latter fact was emphasized after several very thorough searches for adults and a collection of several birds in various plumages which yielded no adult birds. This seems to be the situation in the tree sparrows as well

Childs
1957

Motacilla flava

20 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
collected one near Falcon Rock.

29 June These occur within 1/4 mile of camp and increase in numbers as you go inland.

19 July Camp A. Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alask
One juvenile bird seen along the river

23 July 20± mi SE Cape Sabine
Becoming more common as we proceed downstream.

10 Aug These birds are moving through in small numbers and have been for several days.

16 Aug Ditto

6/20 2586 ?A 18.5

Childs 1958

# Motacilla flava

4 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several seen along river and stream 1/2 mile in from camp. They appeared to be moving through.

9 June One at river mouth

17 June One scolded along the coast near cabin

19 June Appear much rarer than last year inland. Saw a "White Wagtail" today on ridge across the river.

24 June Number seen along shore east of river mouth. Not shy like 2902 = Pipit

5 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Two seen along the river.

6 July One seen on North fork of Pitmegea

8 July Several seen + heard downstream

15 July A young bird fed on mosquitoes attracted to screen door of our tent. Several in the vicinity.

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Heard calling across river.

22 July Young in first year plumage seen

28 July Present along most of the river.

9 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Occasional individuals have passed through since our return. 2 this a.m.

Childs
1957

Motacilla flava

23 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Walking to Falcon Rock a few were heard but there was not the scolding or following seen in past years. A few have passed through camp.

4 July a male seen along coast west of cabin

5 July a pair seen along Willow Creek.

12 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Fairly common along river & seen feeding young.

22 July Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska
One along landing strip.

6 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Small movement thru camp which continued until 9th

Childs
1960

Motacilla flava

June 2 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
First one heard today.

Childs
1958

Anthus spinoletta
~~Motacilla alba~~ ? Bah!

19 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

As we stopped to get a drink at the top of the mountain behind the lagoon, a white wagtail landed about 30 ft from us. As I changed to a lighter load it flew off and could not be found again. It wagged its tail, was long and thin, grey & white with no facial marking. White outer tail feathers with darker center rectrices. Thought at first it was a Wheatear but too long and slender and no white rump patch. One more second and it would have been a dead bird!

24 June Collected a bird (2902) which was probably the above although this one seems browner than the one seen on the 19th. Collected on top of mt. behind lagoon. It was shy although it seemed to be interested in the spot where we ate. Took it with a beautiful wing shot but with too large pellets (9).

30 June Collected another of these birds (2918) at the edge of a steep bank behind Wolverine Mt. There were at least 2 others. They were nesting as one was seen with food in its bill. These are extremely shy, restless birds which do not allow close approach. Their undulating flight when scolding makes them hard to shoot on the wing. They give a flight

Childs
1958

Anthus
~~M. alba~~?

30 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
note "purheat", a single syllable not like a pipit at home. The habitat was a plateau above a fair size stream (One mile creek), a rocky, wind blown area. It was not dissimiliar from the spot where I got the other one, i.e. rocky, near the edge of a steep precipice, and high relatively speaking from the surrounding area.

5 July Pitmegea River, [illegible] miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
collected one and several others seen on bluffs along river. One shot on river gravel. Another seen near camp.

6 July Fairly common along river and on top of mountain 7 miles up north fork of Pitmegea. Young were flying.

8 July Fairly regular along the river.

12 July Fewer, more quiet now

13 July Many on mountain up Northfork

22 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
a few seen along the river

9 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine Alaska
Occasional pipits and wagtails have passed through since our return.
2 pipits near tent today, they resemble one another quite closely at this time of plumage.

Childs
1957

Anthus spinoletta

May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Maher reported them in late May.

5 July Found 2 pairs feeding young in the same area behind Wolverine Mt. that I found them last year. A Phlox grows here, not seen elsewhere.

12 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

A ♀ seen feeding flying young along the river.

Childs
1958

<u>Wilsonia pusilla</u>

<u>6 July  Pitmegea River, 1 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska</u>

Shot a ♀ feeding young at the spot where I got a Yellowlegs and saw Robins ½ mile up the north fork of the Pitmegea.

CHILDS
1951

TREE SPARROW
Spizella arborea

July 10 Umiat, Alaska

This is one of the 3 most common birds here being found in the willow thickets. Young birds are out of the nest. Some singing heard.

July 11 A juvenile bird was taken back of camp this a.m.

Aug 1 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

This species and the Redpoll were the common species of the willows and like the Wagtail no adults were taken and only one possibly seen. The juveniles were in all stages of post-juvenile molt.

Childs
1957

Spizella arborea

29 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Collected 2 in the willows opposite Falcon Rock and heard others singing. Several White crown sparrows, ~~not~~ many Redpolls, and a few Yellow Wagtails.

19 July Camp A Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
a few seen

23 July Fairly common in Felt-leaf willow along most of the river

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6/29 | 2615 | 89A | 19.3 |
| | 2616 | 89A | 19.7 |

Childs
1958

Spizella arborea

May 18 Barrow, Alaska

One was collected with Rausch's .410 outside the lab. Badly shot up!

May 25 Wainwright, Alaska

Collected 2 that were feeding with 2 White crowns at the bluff in front of the school

3 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Two in willows behind our tent.

5 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Common in the Felt-leaf willow.

6 July abundant along the northfork with White-crown Sparrows. I wonder what the differences in habitat requirements of these two species are?

Childs
1959

Spizella arborea

11 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
(Common in felt-leaf willows behind tents).

CHILDS
1951

# SAVANNAH SPARROW
*Passerculus sandwichensis*

July 10 Umiat, Alaska

Several were seen on the flat areas near the foothills

Aug 5 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

Only a few of this species were seen in the field and all collected were juveniles. By the end of our stay at this locality several were coming regularly to the cracked wheat & poppy seed we scattered in camp.

Aug. 10 Point Barrow, Alaska

I got one in a bird trap which Frank skinned.

Childs
1955

Passerculus sandwichensis

July 6 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska
Several seen + more heard. This song was definitely heard at Barrow near $T_3$ on several nights last week.

July 9 Collected one and got one in traps in $T_2$

Childs
1957

Passerculus sandwichensis

June 18 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One seen yesterday and several seen and heard today on Loon Marsh. One followed me, scolding, so they are definitely breeding.

20 June Common across river. Breeding. Collected one.

29 June Many in low, marshy willows across river to Falcon Rock

24 July Pitmegea River, 12 mi. SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several seen in shrubs near ponds and surprisingly none seen elsewhere on the river trips. A bob-tailed young bird was seen here.

6 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One caught in T. traps yesterday. Was scolded today by adults and flushed its bob-tailed young. Is this a second brood?

15 Aug Occasional birds seen in last few days.

6/20 2594 ♀A 19.6
6/30 2618 ♂ 18.3

Childs
1958

# Passerculus sandwichensis

1 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

These birds were common today and singing in the marsh area where we saw and heard none yesterday. I believe they arrived overnight

7 June They are abundant in the wet low willow areas and always scold whenever you come close. I have never found a nest of this species.

9 June Found a nest with 6 eggs near $T_5$-0.0 It was very well concealed in a mound in sedge meadow.

20 June Found nest 3 eggs

21 June " " w/5 young well developed gray down across river in sedge.

5 July Pitmegea River, 16 mils SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

A few seen in the wet meadows.

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

A few in willows on the marsh.

30 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

One came into camp and fed.

9 Aug Same.

Childs
1959

Passerculus sandwichensis

22 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One singing behind tent.
23 June Caught ♂ in trap line.
12 July Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several young taken in traps in marsh of tussocks.
8 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Took one in trapline. One seen near tent.

Childs
1960

Passerculus sandwichensis

28 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Heard singing for first time today. Saw a pair at cabin.

Childs

IA52°

# Passerella iliaca

25 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

I shot three in heavy willows about a mile upstream where Pete got 3 Bluethroats yesterday. at least one was an adult in heavy molt. I am certain I heard one upstream on the last day also after hearing their call note.

CHILDS
1951

White-crown Sparrow
Zonotrichia leucophrys

July 10 Umiat, Alaska

Took one near the foot of Umiat Mt. that was feeding young. There were at least 2 singing birds.

Aug 6 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

One was found alive in a Hav-a-hart trap this morning and proved to be the only one of this species seen in the area.

Childs
1957

Zonotrichia leucophrys

20 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Collected one in willows near Falcon Rock.
29 June Several pairs seen in same area.
19 July Camp at Pitmegea River mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
A few seen with fledged young
23 July Quite regular in willow thickets and only slightly less abundant than Spizella.

6/20 ♀A 2592 27.0

Childs 1958

# Zonotrichia leucophrys

26 May Wainwright, Alaska
Saw two with two tree sparrows.
28 May another in same place in front of school. Again could not collect it.
Barrow, Alaska
One feeding in refuse near mess hall.
29 May Collected 2 ♂♂ on the above place.
4 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Collected a pair with one shot, very unusual it is usually 2 shots for one bird, along the first stream inland 1 mile. Dropped one and stepped on it, very clumsy!
19 June Several singing along lagoon but I could not see any willows for them.
21 June one sang outside the tent during the night.
24 June Heard singing near Lagoon
30 June 2 were seen on bluff behind Wolverine Mt. with only the smallest of willows in the area.
5 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Common in the Felt-leaf willow.
6 July abundant along the northfork.
18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Common in Tall willows.

Childs
1959

Zonotrichia leucophrys

22 Jun Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One came to bread near tent and sang.

23 Jun One seen near tent

5 July Species heard singing behind Wolverine Mt.

11 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several in willows behind tent. Heard singing abundantly.

Childs
1960

Zonotrichia leucophrys

28 May Ptarmigan River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One was seen near cabin.

Childs
1958

# Junco hyemalis

25 May Wainwright, Alaska

Heard one singing at the bluff in front of the school and I collected it. Later collected another 10 mile out on the ice. at one of the whaling camps where it had been feeding on seal fat.

26 May Heard one singing in the same place at the Village as the first one.

27 May collected it.

22 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

A mummified specimen was found at Falcon Rock

CHILDS LONGSPUR NEST ACTIVITY WATCH
1951



(6)

7-21-51

July 21 Point Barrow, Alaska

Weights LH 8.5g
RH 8.7g
RH-LH 6.8g

1325 ♀ on nest. She got off twice when we approached to weight the young. There are 3 young and 2 eggs in the nest. Dates of hatching are known (See FAP notes). The ♂ has not been seen.

33 ♀ gone. Difficult to see in nest from this position

39 ♀ fed, settled.

46 3 RP flew over, calling. A Long-tail Jaeger flew west on ridge

51 ♀ left.

56 ♀ fed, removed f. s.

1406 ♀ fed, settled.

14 O.S. calling [=Old-squaw]

14 ♀ left.

19 ♀ fed, left

21 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

26 ♀ fed, settled. This ♀ has much more black in throat, face and crown than most ♀ longspurs and approaches the ♂ plumage quite closely.

28 Gull flew over towards west. 30, another gull.

34 ♀ left.

45 ♀ fed, settled. It is quite cold and it appears that the ♀ does not have much food in her mouth on each of her visits plus the length of time she is out makes the theory plausible that there is a scarcity of food available today.

55 ♀ gone when nest checked. She can get off in a flash and it is difficult to see into the nest

July 21 Point Barrow, Alaska.

1500 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

11 ♀ " " " .

17 ♀ " " " . ♀ always approaches in this manner: she flies in and lands 15± ft ~~to~~ the east of the nest and walks with head lowered, ~~to~~ the nest.

20 ♀ flew directly to nest! fed & settled.

23 ♀ S.B. near stake 1E

33 ♀ left

40 ♀ flew directly to nest again, fed, removed f.s.

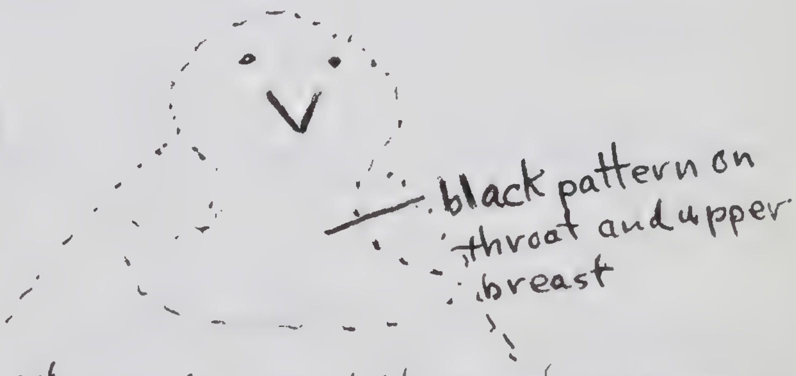
1605 Snowy Owl on mound where jaeger trap was set.

05 ♀ fed, settled. It is apparent now that the ♂ is not in evidence.

19 ♀ left

49 B.S. flight song heard

1719 The bird has been gone one full hour now. It may have deserted. The young are still lively and gaped when I checked the nest.




The Bird seen at the nest. I do not recall pattern of ♀ vs ♂ but I do remember there was some difficulty distinguishing one from the other

21 2 LL flew in to the mound

22 ♀ fed, settled! The other bird I only got a glimpse of and it looked like a ♀ in molt. It did not approach the nest. Insects are becoming more numerous now.

37 ♀ left.

42 ♀ fed, settled.

56 Golden Plover called nearby.

1800 - Brunwald takes over.

1810 - Checked nest ~~nest~~ - ♀ gone, young gaped when I approached

July 21 Point Barrow, Alaska

1830 no sign of ♀.
1842 3 Phalaropes fly over nest.
1900- still no ♀ - Checked nest - Squeaking had no effect on young. hand close to nest - still negative. Actually touched young - at first no response, finally 2 gaped - other one did not. - Entire response seemed feeble in comparison to some other broods
1905- Snowy Owl sitting on mound to west of 1st flag - Complete absence of ♂ longspur & the erratic actions of the ♀, would seem to invalidate any data derived from this run.
1907- Snowy Owl's back - dark in color - gray blue (Like Bull) → young bird?
1915- Still no ♀ longspur - Snowy Owl still sitting.
1930- no ♀. Has she left for good? With temperatures falling, cold alone (+ lack of food) could kill off young in matter of hours.
1931 ♀ back!! landed to east of nest - stood over nest for 30 sec. before starting to feed. Tail feathers flicking up & down while feeding. Settled down on nest - Just about impossible to make ♀ out on nest. When ♀ approached, did not seem to have much food in bill.
1950 ♀ still on nest - Can't make her out at all while sitting. Standing - side & back of head sometimes visible.
1953- ♀ flew off - towards marshland
2015- ♀ still gone
2024- R.B. Sandpiper flew over

July 21 Point Barrow, Alaska

2030 still no ♀.
2044 - ♀ returns, feeds, settles - (feeding lasted 1 min. or so.) flew directly to nest
2100 - ♀ still on nest.

2110 - ♀ flew off nest towards marshland.
2130 - ♀ still gone.
2145 - and still no ♀.
2150 - 3 Gulls flew over → 2152 - 7 more.
2200 - ♀ back - fed young briefly - settled down - This makes 3 feedings in 4 hours. ♀ sits facing direction opp. to blind. increases difficulty of determining her presence or absence.

2205 - Phalarope calling - then Loon
2215 - ♀ still on nest - facing towards blind
2228 - still here - Since 1619 - total of 5 feedings.
2245 - Phalarope calling. ♀ on nest. (LL)
2250 - ♀ flew off nest - lost sight of her at 1st red flag on west side of ridge.
2255 - Went to nest - 2 young gaped vigorously - 3rd one wasn't visible.
2258 - ♀ fed young 10-15 sec - remained.

2348 - ♀ leaves; I visited nest, 3 yng present, all gaped.
2356 - ♀ feeds, leaves with f.s.
58 - ♀ " , " " "
0000 - ♀ feeds, consumes f.s., remains.
35 - ♀ leaves.
40 - ♀ feeds, leaves with f.s.
42 - ♀ feeds, remains.
54 - ♀ leaves.
100 - ♀ feeds, leaves.
02 - ♀ feeds, leaves
04 - ♀ feeds, leaves
05 - ♀ feeds, carries away f.s.
08 - ♀ feeds, remains.
45 - ♀ leaves
49 - ♀ feeds, leaves.
51 - ♀ " "
53 - ♀ " , leaves with f.s.
54 - ♀ " " " "
57 - ♀ " , leaves.
200 - ♀ " , remains.

| | feedings |
|---|---|
| 23-00 | 3 |
| 00-01 | 3 |
| 01-02 | 10 |
| 02-03 | 5 |
| 03-04 | 4 (+?) |
| 04-05 | 5 |
| 05-06 | 6 |
| 06-07 | 6 |
| 07-08 | 6 |
| 08-09 | 6 |
| 09-10 | 5 |
| 10-11 | 7 |
| 11-12 | 5 6 |
| 12-13 | 6 5 |
| 13-14 | 5 |
| 14-15 | |
| 15-16 | |
| 16-17 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| 14-15 | 5 |
| 15-16 | 5 |
| 16-17 | 1 |
| 17-18 | 2 |
| 18-19 | 0 |
| 19-20 | 1 |
| 20-21 | 1 |
| 21-22 | 1 |
| 22-23 | 1 |

FAP
1951

July 22
245 - ♀ leaves.
48 - ♀ feeds, leaves.
50 - ♀ feeds, leaves.
52 - ♀ feeds, leaves with fecal sac.
55 - ♀ feeds, leaves.
59 - ♀ feeds, leaves.
304 - ♀ feeds, consumes f.s., leaves.
06 - ♀ feeds, leaves.
12 - ♀ feeds, remains
35 - ♀ leaves
53 - ♀ feeds, remains. a feeding or two in last off-period (one just concluded) may have been missed due to concern with weighing of birds. ♀ silent at all times. Except for sound of flight, just as often as not drowned by breeze, one must see arrival & departure to detect it.

345 LH — 8.0
RH — 8.3
LHRH — 6.9

421 - ♀ leaves.
31 - ♀ feeds, carries away f. s.
35 - ♀ feeds, remains.
49 - ♀ leaves
55 - ♀ feeds, leaves.
57 - ♀ " , "
500 - ♀ feeds, leaves with f.s.
02 - ♀ feeds, remains.
15 - ♀ leaves.
22 - ♀ feeds, leaves
25 - ♀ feeds, leaves.
27 - ♀ feeds, carries away f. s.
29 - ♀ feeds, remains.
37 - ♀ leaves
42 ♀ feeds, remains
50 - ♀ leaves
601 - ♀ feeds, carries away f.s.
03 - ♀ " , " " "
06 ♀ feeds, remains.
16 ♀ leaves
28 - ♀ feeds, leaves.
30 - ♀ feeds, remains
45 - ♀ leaves
52 - ♀ feeds, waits a few seconds at nest rim, watching young, then settles down.

0706 ♀ left.
12 ♀ fed, removed f.s.
15 ♀ " "
24 ♀ " , settled
36 ♀ left.
38 ♀ fed, left.
42 ♀ fed, settled

CHILDS
1951

July 22 Point Barrow, Alaska

0745 gull flew over. Phalarope flew over.

48 ♀ left.

55 ♀ fed, settled.

0803 ♀ left.

11 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

13 ♀ " "

16 ♀ " "

20 RP flew over calling.

26 ♀ fed, settled.

39 gull flew over.

52 ♀ left.

57 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

59 ♀ fed, left.

0904 ♀ fed, settled.

10 ♂ to nest clump, ♀ watching from nest. ♀ either begged or scolded from nest ♂ fed near nest, casually, and moved on. ♂ with white in sides of throat, molting but just beginning in face; it may have had a collar on the breast at one time but it is gone now and only a suggestion remains at the sides.

15 ♀ left. Occasional sunshine.

21 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

33 ♀ " " "

35 ♀ fed, settled.

44 ♀ left.

59 ♀ fed, settled.

1002 showers.

CHILDS
1951

July 22 Point Barrow, Alaska

1020 ♀ left. 3 loons flew over, call not that of Pacific Loon.

24 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

27 ♀ fed, left.

29 " " "

32 ♀ fed, removed f.s. Flying insects common now. Wind less

44 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

46 ♀ fed, settled. Started to rain.

54 ♀ left.

59 ♀ fed, left.

1102 ♀ fed, settled.

12 ♀ left.

14 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

22 Started to rain.

26 ♀ fed, settled

35 ♀ left.

36 ♂ different from the one mentioned before landed near teepee & chirped then foraged

51 ♀ fed, left.

58 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

1200 ♀ fed, left. Foraged 10' in front of teepee

01 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

12 ♀ fed, settled.

22 ♀ left

30 Started to rain

32 ♀ fed, settled

48 ♀ left.

52 ♀ fed, removed f.s.

57 ♀ fed, settled.

CHILDS
1951

July 22 Point Barrow, Alaska

1300 started raining; stopped before 1310.

1310 ♀ left.

1319 ♀ feeds, remains.

28 ♀ leaves

36 ♀ feeds, leaves with fecal sac.

47 ♀ " , " " " "

49 ♀ feeds, leaves

52 ♀ feeds, remains

1400 ♀ still on; watch closed.

Weights

| | 1400 pm, June 22 | 345 June 22 | 1320 June 21 |
|---|---|---|---|
| LH | 9.8 | 8.0 | 8.5 |
| RH | 10.0 | 8.3 | 8.7 |
| LHRH | 7.8 | 6.9 | 6.8 |

16.3

LH 26.1
RH 26.3
24.1

CHILDS
1951



# LONGSPUR ACTIVITY WATCH

July 21 Point Barrow, Alaska

| | | MAX. | MIN. | | | LIGHT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 21 | 1400 | 44.5 | 41.0 | 3.5 | 74 | 1300 | Windy, cold |
| | 1500 | 44.0 | 41.0 | 3 | 78 | 1000 | " " |
| | 1600 | 43.0 | 40.0 | 3 | 77 | 800 | " " |
| | 1700 | 45.0 | 41.8 | 3 | 78 | 1300 | Clearing to west. |
| | 1800 | 45.0 | 41.5 | 3.5 | 74 | 1000 | Clearing |
| | 1900 | 42.5 | 39 | 3.5 | 74 | 320 | no wind, overcast clear over ocean. |
| | 2000 | 44.5 | 40.5 | 4 | 71 | 400 | Sun shining no wind |
| | 2100 | 43 | 39.5 | 3.5 | 73 | 200 - | no wind |
| | 2200 | 44 | 40 | 4 | 71 | 200 | - Sun out no wind |
| | 2300 | 40.5 | 39 | 1.5 | 87 | 100 | getting cold. |
| July 22 | 0000 | 41.6 | 40 | [illegible] | [illegible] | 45 | - light rain for about 15 mins; cloudiness heavy, but broken. |
| | 0100 | 42.0 | 40 | [illegible] | [illegible] | 50 | - Cloudy; clear sky to west; mild wind from west. |
| | 0200 | 39.5 | 38 | 1 | [illegible] | 60 | - Partly cloudy; more wind. |
| | 0300 | 40.0 | 38.5 | 1.5 | [illegible] | 100 | - partly cloudy; moderate to slight SW breeze |
| | 0400 | 40 | 38 | [illegible] | [illegible] | 155 | - Same as 0300 |
| | 0500 | 44 | 40.5 | 3.5 | 74 | 400 | - Sunny; mod. SW wind. |
| | 0600 | 42 | 39 | 3 | 77 | 360 | - Cloudy. |
| | 0700 | 42.5 | 40 | 2.5 | 81 | 600 | - Cloudy. |
| | 0800 | 45.0 | 41.5 | 3.5 | 74 | 800 | cloudy, windy |
| | 0900 | 46.5 | 43.0 | 3.5 | 75 | 1000 | clearing to west |
| | 1000 | 48.0 | 43.8 | 4 | 73 | 650 | Occ. sunshine. |
| | 1100 | 48.0 | 44.5 | 3.5 | 76 | 800 | Occ. showers |
| | 1200 | 52.0 | 46.5 | 5.5 | 66 | 800 | Clearing, windy. |
| | 1300 | 52.0 | 47.0 | 5.0 | [illegible] | 800 | Cloudy, occ. showers |
| | 1400 | 51.0 | 4?.6 | 3.5 | [illegible] | 1200 | Cloudy. |
| | 1500 | | | | | | |
| | 1600 | | | | | | |

Childs
1955

Calcarius lapponicus

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
Several nests have been found back of the lab and a clutch of 5 hatched yesterday. Several caught in mouse traps. Little song or displays noted. They seem less abundant than in 1951.

June 29 Found nest on live plot 2 with 5 young. about 4' away was a ~~Baird~~ Pectoral Sandpiper nest.

June 30 Found nest with 4 eggs near Vote area
" " " 3 young " " " marked with a bone

July 5 Atkasook, Meade River, Alaska
Common here - even in the center of the village. Found a nest with 3 advanced young + one infertile egg.

July 7 Young of several different broods out of the nest today

July 15 Wainwright, Alaska
No nests found. Many young of the year around

Aug 13 Flocks moving through in good numbers.

Aug 23 Point Barrow, Alaska
Longspurs moved into our footprints in the snow apparently for feeding.

Childs
1957

# *Calcarius lapponica*

June 11 Wainwright, Alaska

I found a new nest recently destroyed by jaegers. Cade found one with one egg.

June 12 Found 2 nests, both with 5 eggs.

June 15 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Fairly abundant on the tundra; females acting like there are young in the nest.

June 19 Adults actively feeding young. Nest with 5 downy young found across river. No primaries broken open. 2 fledglings caught in traps. Several others seen first day out of nest

20 June Many fledglings seen

28 June Most of these birds appear to have fledged their young.

10 July Longspurs appear to be flocking and moving along coast to west.

19 July Camp A - Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Just a handful seen of juveniles who seem to be moving down (North) the river. Certainly they are less abundant by far than at the river mouth. There is no indication of any cross-peninsula movement of these or any other species.

24 July The above applies to the entire river. Very few seen or heard until less than 12 miles from coast. From 10 to 20+ miles upstream the Wagtails seem to take over.

6/20 2596 31A 27.0

5 Aug. The movement that started a week ago is gaining momentum. Numbers are always seen on the tundra [illegible] and others moving along the river and near the tent.

Childs 1957

# Calcarius



16 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
The movement mentioned earlier was hardly more than a filtering through of a few birds. In hunting for Wheatears today there was a good wave of Longspurs on the move, passing over the hillsides to the N W. They seemed in a hurry.

Childs
1958

Calcarius lapponicus

23 May Wainwright, Alaska

A group of three were seen in the village along the bluff in the evening. These were the first of the year for Barrow or here.

25 May Yesterday and today numbers have been moving through the village at the edge of the bluff. None were seen out on the ridge although some areas are now exposed.

26 May We were surprised to find these birds regularly moving out on the ice 10 miles from shore at the whaling camps. Males were even singing their flight song.

30 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Birds common, males singing. Pairs seen feeding together on the bar.

31 May Pete found a nest w/5 eggs near T2-0.0 Other female seen gathering nesting material in front of our tent at 2100.

1 June 4 nests found. 3 w/6 1 w/5 eggs. Males are not too busy displaying, singing or squabbling. Territories seem to be well established and most clutches complete.

2 June Censused bird plots 1 & 2. 13 nests found 7 w/6; 1 w/5; 2 w/4; 2 w/0.

Childs 1958

Calcarius

2 June Pitmegea River Cape Sabine, Alaska
1228 Watched male drive away continually 3 other males from a female feeding and apparently not watching the proceedings. Actual body contact took place in 3 instances although most of the time the intruder retreated when flown at by the resident ♂. A threat note "spit" was given. No singing took place during these engagements. I interpret this to be early in the pair formation before the bond was firmly made and before nesting had started. The results of the censuses seem to indicate that most of the clutches are now just completed and that 6 eggs is the modal clutch size.

4 June Found 2 nests, each with 5 eggs

5 June " " " " " " "

10 June A number of the nests had newly hatched young in them today on Plot 1

13 June 5/7 nests now have young.

14 June Found nest on hill with recently hatched young.

19 June Found 2 nests 10/3, 4/5 both in sedge + willow

24 June Found first fledgling today

5 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Common here but nowhere near as abundant as near the coast. Young quite advanced in growth – at least the tails are complete.

Childs
1958



# Calcarius

13 July Pitmegea River, 16 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several small flocks moving through down river indicate the southward movement has started.

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
More common here than inland. Flocking and moving there.

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Flocks of juveniles moving there.

5 August This morning we witnessed a flight of longspurs moving through the area to the northeast! for several hours. Hundreds of birds were involved. It was overcast and foggy yet the sun peeked there from that direct. There was essentially no wind. Was gibbs? Pete said large numbers have been moving out on Owl Ridge + 2nd Ridge during the last two days. This afternoon hundreds passed to the west as we rested bringing in caribou

7 Aug Saw another flock headed east this morning although most were headed west.

Childs
1959

Calcarius lapponicus

16 June Barrow, Alaska
We collected several females in bare spots in Voth area. Season apparently 10-14 days behind "normal"

23 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Two juveniles were caught in snap-traps, the first of these seen this year.

24 June Found nest with 5 eggs near $T_4$-0.0

5 July Nest on ridge with 2 young + 3 eggs.

12 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several young taken in traps

18 July Wainwright, Alaska
young numerous. adult males in molt but not ♀.

22 July Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska
Juveniles taken in traps. adult ♂♂ in molt but not as far along as Wainwright birds

Aug 1 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Few still around, mostly in full molt.

Child.
1960

Calcarius lapponicus

24 May Barrow, Alaska

A number of them seen near both area — they arrived today.

26 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine Alaska

Present and displaying but not very numerous.

29 May Nest w/6 eggs

Childs
1963

Calcarius lapponicus

10 June Wainwright, Alaska
Some males still displaying c̄ flight songs. They do not seem to be particularly abundant here

5 July Barrow, Alaska
Young have been off the nest for several days. Snow on 4th may have wiped ~~off~~ off some nests

11 July Barnard River, Banks Island, NWT, Canada
Not abundant by Barrow standards but one of the most common species here.

12 July Sachs Harbor, Banks Island, NWT Canada
A pair was seen feeding a fledgling near the air strip.

Childs
1955

Plectrophenax nivalis

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
a few birds behind the lab.
July 5 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska
A few pairs in the village. One nesting in a bird house on the post office.
July 7 Saw some fledlings behind Quonset.
July 15 Wainwright, Alaska
Common in the village. Appear to still be feeding young.

Childs
1957

Plectrophenax nivalis

June 8 Barrow, Alaska

Birds in full song behind lab. Do not appear so abundant as usual.

June 11 Wainwright, Alaska

Singing commonly in village.

June 17 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Possibly 2 pairs along bluffs to north of camp.

1 Olney One was seen on the large littoral across the river toward Falcon Rock.

Childs
1958

Plectrophenax nivalis

May 18 Barrow, Alaska

Reported present since April by the MD at the village. A few were seen around camp. This p.m. a flock of 20 were seen migrating through south of the lab. They stopped, bathed and drank in melted water on top of some drums.

20 May

2 ♂♂ on territory in the storage area and both landed! Small flocks are moving through. 30-40 are concentrated around the garbage dump. Two females were seen and unattached.

23 May Wainwright, Alaska

Good numbers here and in pairs. Nest building is underway in a nest box outside the window of the school where we stay.

30 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Two seen flying along the snow bank.

9 June a male seen this side of cabin.

11 June " " behind camp.

17 June a pair at creek between camp + cabin.

19 June Several pairs seen and apparently feeding young on ridge near lagoon.

30 June a pair on ridge near [illegible] nest

Childs
1958

P. nivalis

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

An immature bird was seen along the bluff behind camp. Pete saw several near marmot den.

1 Aug. ~~31 July~~ a pair of adults were feeding 3 juveniles on Marmot Ridge. I almost collected one but was too close to the marmot den.

8 Aug Tried to collect a juvenile behind camp without success.

Childs
1959

Plectrophenax nivalis

18 June Barrow, Alaska
Several pairs active in dump area
23 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Maher has located nest on Carbon Mt.
A male flew through camp today.
25 June A ♂ seen near coal vein downstream
1 July Nest with 6 eggs in hole in cliff towards cabin. Koranda reported an oval stone in nest in addition to eggs.
4 July Two young have hatched Stone not oval but well incubated. I removed it.
18 July Wainwright, Alaska
Common in village.
22 July Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska
One ♀ at wanigan.
24 July A feeding dependant fledgling at wanigan

Childs
1960

Plectrophenax nivalis

21 May Barrow, Alaska

Males singing commonly. One pair seen

28 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Three seen along bluff to cabin.

Childs 1963

# Plectrophenax nivalis

5 July Barrow, Alaska

Buntings do not seem as abundant in the storage area as they have been in the past. However, there seems to be more of them over the tundra.

20 July a family of buntings has made a mess of the wanigan at Ikroavik

Acanthis is
now
Carduelis
per AOU 1998

CHILDS
1951

# REDPOLL
## Acanthis

June 18 Point Barrow, Alaska
One at S end of W at 1100 flying over. I took one near pipe line with beautiful wing shot at 1800. One sang on wire at end of R. 1 while watching SB at 1935. Several other reports by more people
June 25 a pair flew into storage area this evening. We are seeing individuals rather consistently.
July 10 Umiat, 400 ft., Alaska
This was the common bird here. Young were out of the nest and I saw one ♀ carrying a mouthful of willow catkin "cotton", perhaps to start a second nest. I was not sure that only one species was seen. Once a pair seemed much larger and a flight containing a more melodious note was heard several times.
July 15 Point Barrow, Alaska
One flew over back of lab.
Aug. 5 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska
This was a common bird in the willow thickets the only areas where it was found. The broods still appeared to remain together which may be an indication that these are the latest breeders in the area. On the 7th an albino juvenile was shot which was the youngest bird seen of any species.

CHILDS
1951

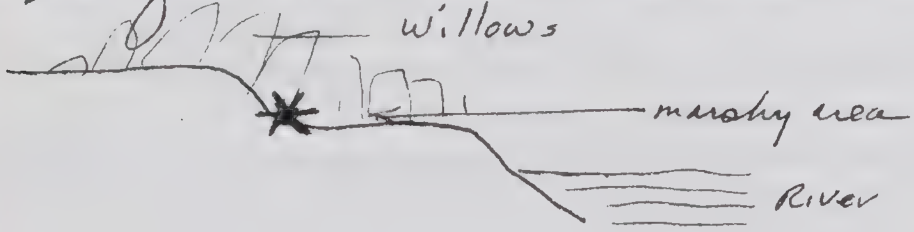
Sorex

June 16 Point Barrow, Alaska

Rose found a mummified skeleton of one on the area S of ARL.

Aug. 7 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

We found a maggot riddled specimen in one of the traps we lost the first day. Even though 5 days had elapsed, the skin had only started to slip in the head and rump regions. The coloration was unique for any shrew I've ever seen, the head being a chocolate brown and breaking sharply into the usual mouse grey in the face and ventral surface. It was trapped along the edge of the river to the north of camp



Childs
1955

acanthis hornemanni

July 5 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska
a pair in willows along the river.

Acanthis hornemanni
is now
Carduelis hornemanni
per AOU 1998

Childs
1957

# Acanthis hornemanni

June 15 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several seen near camp
June 16 Found nest with 5 young in drift brush near where we get water 1' off ground. It wasn't until 6/19 that we finally got the adults sighted
20 June many in willows 2 mi upstream
22 June 3 of 5 young in nest left this a.m. All gone by morning of 24th.
27 June these birds abundant wherever there are willows upstream.
29 June Collected a pretty ♂ in willows where fledged young were being feed
19 July Camp A - Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several seen in willows back of camp
24 July Seen with regularity but not abundantly all along the trip down river.

Acanthis hornemanni
is now
Carduelis hornemanni
per AOU 1998

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6/20 | 2585 | ♀A | 13.0 |
| 6/29 | 2617 | ♂ | 13.2 |

Childs
1958

# Acanthis hornemanni

31 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several seen and heard in flight.
1 June Same
2 June Pete found a nest w/5 eggs - Doubtful record
4 June A pair seen at one mile creek
13 June Not abundant but usually heard everyday
28 June Found nest across river 1' high w/4 in Felt-leaf willow
5 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Common in the shrubby areas. Collected two.
12 July Collected a very red redpoll - possibly A. linaria
13 July Found a nest with 3 young just hatched and one egg
17 July Found nest with 5 eggs. This species must lay 2 clutches per season on occasion.
18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
A number seen in the Felt-leaf willow.
22 July Found a nest in felt-leaf willow with 4 eggs - flushed ♀
25 July Found nests w/5 young and w/6 eggs upstream where I shot Fox Sparrows.
7 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Although most have left the area now, I saw one today.

Childs
1959

Acanthis sp

17 June Barrow, Alaska
Two seen in flight behind lab.
18 June Several again heard behind the lab.
24 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine Alaska
Usual numbers around. 5 pairs drinking melting icewater at edge of bluff this a.m.
5 July Impression now is for considerably fewer numbers of these to be present.
12 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Redpolls do not seem very abundant this year here.
22 July Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska
adults feeding young.
9 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
None seen since July 30.

Childs
1960

Acanthis sp.

26 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
one heard in flight.

Childs
1963

acanthis sp

28 June Barrow, Alaska

A pair is resident in the area immediately back of the lab.

11 July Bernard River, Banks Island, N.W.T., Canada

Tedson reported a pair west of camp. Maher had not recorded this species

Childs
1959

Birds recorded by T. Cade at Pitmegea May 20 - 29, 1959

Anas acuta
Pluvialis dominica
Charadrius semipalmatus
Crocethia alba
Erolia melanotos
E. bairdii
Ereunetes pusillus
Stercorarius pomarinus
S. parasiticus
S. longicaudus
Falco rusticolus
Buteo lagopus
Lagopus lagopus
L. mutus
Nyctea scandiaca
Asio flammeus
Corvus corax
Sayornis saya
Eremophila alpestris
Oenanthe oenanthe
Ixoreus naevius
Anthus spinoletta
Acanthis sp.
Calcarius lapponicus
Plectrophenax

# H. E. Childs
## 1951-1963

## Alaska

## Species Accounts Part 2

Mammals

Childs
1955

# *Sorex tundrensis*

July 17 Wainwright, Alaska
Caught one in trap in transect 1. Trap set in Lemmus runway.

July 22 Set out 3 of Hamas' shrew traps (1100).
An Eskimo said his wife got a shrew in her ice cellar yesterday. I have not seen the specimen. Got 2 other in transects, making 3 in all.

Childs
1957

Sorex sp.

26 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Caught one in $T_3$ - 0.4

7 Aug Caught one by hand after seeing the movement it made in a small pool by a tussock.

8 Aug 2 caught in $T_4$

16 Aug Several caught in $T_8$ in last few days.

Childs
1958

# Sorex arcticus

6 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Got 4 in T3 today. They seem much browner and show a higher contrast to the ones we got last summer.

22 June Got four in 100 traps after the rain of last night. All males. The slight additional moisture with a rise in temperature this a.m. probably account for their increased activity

30 June Caught 3 by hand on Plot 2. Heard rustling in grass and saw one run into pseudotussock. Caught it and then looked closer and found 2 more — all males of the year. A rudimentary nest was constructed of lichens and moss. This was located in dry sedge-willow wet meadow

22 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi. SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several taken in transects.

Childs
1963

Lepus arcticus

12 July Bernard River, Banks Island, NWT, Canada

Maher reported one near camp but we did not see it. Two were seen from the plane on return to Sachs Harbor

Childs
1957

Marmota caligata

June 10 Cape Beaufort, Alaska
One was seen in the long outcrops near the radar site.

Childs
1958

Marmota caligata

6 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete saw one about 2 miles east towards mountains behind lagoon.

10 June Pete snared one and brought it in alive. Having nothing to keep it in we disposed of it.

19 June Merle and I shot at one on ridge near Lagoon. It was very big.

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete making daily trips trying to trap or snare this animal. Another possible in the area.

Citellus parryi
is now
Spermophilus parryi
per Wilson & Reeder
2nd. Ed.

CHILDS
1951

# Citellus parryii

June 3 Point Barrow, Alaska
Schiller got one on the Imaru river see catalog.

July 10 Umiat, 400 ft., Alaska
Gil & I found fresh diggings at the base of Umiat Mt.

Aug 5. East Oumalik, 110 mi. SSE Barrow, Alaska
This animal is extremely abundant in this locality. It's burrows can be found almost anywhere there is any bushy cover along stream banks or on the bluffs. Happens that they respond to any situation where there is "escape cover". Thus the "sik-sik" was very abundant in camp using pipes and 55 gallon drums as refuges. Little burrowing was noted in the camp area so that it may be that the camp is marginal habitat and the squirrels using it would be lost over winter. We took 15 animals from within 25 yds of the cook wannigan where the squirrels would come after food wastes. They were particularly fond of bread & poppy seeds. About 4 squirrels were caught in pipes or between barrels by the simple process of one of us holding a burlap sack over the opening & the other chasing it into the sack from the other end. Another successful method was to place a Hav-a-hart live trap at the entrance to a

Aug 5 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

barrel or pipe from which the squirrel would have to leave after seeing or chasing an animal into it. Of course it was always possible to shoot them as they scurried for cover as we moved along the stream banks and bluffs. They would give their characteristic harsh alarm note "sik-sik" while standing at attention in typical ground squirrel fashion before running for cover. Another note given occassionally in the field and often by the caged animals aboard the plane was a melodius bird-like whistle which I interpreted as expressing great fear. Mayer dug up some burrow systems along the river and failed to find nests or food stores in them. Some of the young of the year had not yet begun to store fat although others contained a thick layer of sub-cutaneous fat. The first day in camp we saw an animal swim across the river and return shortly. It appeared to be a ground squirrel although we could not be sure with binoculars at the distance. Mayer forced a live-trapped animal to swim which it did with ease. Another live-trapped and marked animal returned to the point of capture from release at 1/4 mi away.

Childs
1955

Citellus parryi

July 5 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska
active burrows seen on the bluff to the north but no animals seen.

July 10 Chuck + I made a long trip S to dune area but no animals seen although there was fresh sign.

Citellus parryi
is now
Spermophilus parryi
per Wilson & Reeder
2nd Ed.

Childs
1957

Spermophilus undulatus

June 10 Mouth Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Many active burrows seen.
June 15 One heard scalding under cabin.
20 June One seen above ~~gyr~~ falcon nest, (?)
22 June Eskimos shot one when they went up for caribou.
27 June Although there is abundant evidence of squirrels along the river and in practically every mound of any size, I rarely see or hear any. The other day I watched one run along the opposite shore for a ¼ min. Apparently it knew where it was going. There are several squirrels on a small island opposite the cabin.
29 June One still present above falcon nest.
10 July A few seen along lithosols and bluff on way to Thetis Creek — shot one young of the year.
19 July Camp A. Pitmegea River mi. SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Common along the edge of the bluffs and along the river. Nearly full grown young are out. Collected one immature.
23 July There have been squirrels living above all hawk nests. Selection must be rigorous to allow these ~~animals~~ animals to survive. Three partially eaten, putrid squirrels were found in the first Duck Hawk nest.

Childs
1957

Spermophilus

26 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

After supper Merle went out and saw 2 squirrels on the gravel bar in front of the tent. He called me and when I went out, they were nowhere to be seen. He pointed to the spot and we walked over and I nearly stepped on the adult who ran to the mound near the tent and escaped. The other, an immature, still stayed frozen to the spot with rear end towards us and it took several seconds to pick it out from the rocks surrounding it. We finally tried it out and Merle got it and made a flat skin for his parka out of it.

12 Aug Three Parasitic Jaegers made mocking passes at a squirrel at the upper end of the bar. Wishful thinking on their part. Solomon has shot 4 for skins of squirrels that have come down on to the bar.

16 Aug There are still active.

Childs
1958

Spermophilus undulatus

3 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete saw 3 near the cabin and snared one large ♂.

4 June Pete got the other 2, all by snares. One is kept in a Tea Kettle and the other in the traps. They appear to like carrots very much. I saw several near Wolverine Mt.

12 June One on island where Eskimos camped last year.

17 June One in highly dissected bluff west of cabin on the coast

30 June Two squirrels active on the bar for about a week

5 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several seen and heard on the bluffs along the river. One living across from the Peregrine nest.

6 July Regular along the north fork

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi. SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete snared 5 this p.m.!

20 July Pete and I now have 17, 2 families of 9 & 8 including ♀

28 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
I snared a big ♂ on our bar in 5 min. after supper. He had done a lot of digging at our old camp site.

Childs
1959

## Spermophilus undulatus

5 July | Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

a family of 7 seen along willow creek - seems early.

9 July One came inside tent - tiled as world

1 Aug Many around now in spite of those shipped out of here this summer.

Childs
1960

Spermophilus undulatus

26 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Numerous on bars. One has set up shop in our ice cellar.

Childs
1958

# Clethrionomys rutilus

12 July Pitmegea River, 16 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Took one in $T_9$ - 10.0 this morning. It was in Tussock wet Meadow with the large *Betula nana*

20 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Four were caught in $T_{12}$ this morning. This is in the same type of habitat - mature Tussock wet Meadow as seen in transects $T_9$ & $T_{10}$. It differs from $T_9$ at the base camp in that the tussocks are larger, there appears to be more sphagnum, and the presence of much large *Betula nana*. M. oeconomus was taken in spots of sedge grass (Carex) along the line and one Sorex.

Childs
1963

Clethrionomys

11 July Inuvik, N.W.T., Canada
Caught one near runway.

CHILDS
1951

COLLARED LEMMING
Dicrostonyx groenlandicus

June 16 Point Barrow, Alaska
Frank, Gil, & I combined to catch alive one S of LW
June 19 Gil trapped another in the same area.
June 30 One dead in live trap S of LW
July 2 " " " " " "
July 17 Gil got one about 2 mi S of the camp on the high bluff after 4 days of trapping there

Childs 1955

# Dicrostonyx groenlandicus

July 5 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska

I bought a ♂ 1974 from a Eskimo girl who said she caught it near her tent at the edge of the village. David called it avingyuk although Mrs. Brown called it kilamentuk. We found a nest by opening a active burrow in a tussock on a well drained polygon ridge. Nest was a foot in from the entrance + 4" below surface. Two escape entrances and one large scatorium were included. Adult not found. Young were about 3" long and actively crawling about.

July 6 See journal.

July 8 Got 7 in $T_2$ on first running. This line did not appear good to me as there were few runways evident. Yet this was a good catch. It may be that Dicrostonyx is not the runway builder that Lemmus is.

Yesterday when Frank + I looked at the nest mentioned above, the young were gone.

Fresh scats collected from a dead animal were much smaller than Lemmus. I have observed this type of scat only occasionally in the field and at that time thought they were from Microtus. If Dicrostonyx does not make runways, the indications by scat would be hard to find on the

Childs 1955

# Dicrostonyx

July 8 Atkasook, Meade River, Alaska

surface. This would tend to give the wrong impression of their abundance, particularly in the drier areas they are said to occupy. Only by a more extensive study than I was able to make will settle the habitat preference question — if there is a difference! The heavy padded feet even in the summer pelage is an interesting adaptation which, if understood, might bear on this subject. The anal extension also needs some study. That there is considerable intraspecific strife, both in Lemmus and Dicrostonyx, is evidenced by the holes in the skin in the dorsal rump area (scabs and scars on the fur side) as well as pustule infections in the cheek gland area.

July 15 Wainwright, Alaska

No evidence of their occurrence here to date

July 18 Waldo Bodfish Jr said he had one as pet last winter. I still have seen no evidence of them.

Childs
1957

# Dicrostonyx

20 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Trapped one at $T_1$ - 8.0
25 June " " " $T_4$ - 1.4
26 June " " " $T_3$ - 9.8
5 Aug Done in $T_1$ - 2.2. juvenile ♀ pregnant 6(3-3)

Childs 1958

# Dicrostonyx groenlandicus

2 June Ptarmigan River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Caught ♂ $T_1$-6.6 and ♀ $T_2$-6.8

4 June Many tussock areas ~~are~~ were heavily utilized this winter, some tussocks being completely eaten over a 20-30' circular area.

6 June Found a dead one with brain eaten 1 ft from a winter nest having trails on each side with tremendous accumulation of faeces. Pete thought it was a weasel that killed it. I think possibly a shrew.

7 June The tussock area around $T_4$ although appearing heavily used recently has not produced much. It would appear that the Microtus moved up there in the winter and have moved out again to the Sedge Meadow

19 June Merle caught 1 in 100 traps.

Childs
1959

Dicrostonyx groenlandicus

29 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Cade took one at T, -3.6 (♂A) on 5/22. No other sign of them to date

17 July Wainwright, Alaska
Eckles boys brought in an adult ♀ before supper. They said that many of both lemmings were caught at melt-off time with Lemmus more abundant but not much. White ones were common. We missed boat not purchasing them this year.

18 July Purchased 2

19 July Took an ad ♀ with an ad ♂ Lemmus at T4-0.0. Natives indicate earlier that these moved into the houses in the village.

23 July Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska
Have taken 2 specimens to date here. Very little mouse activity anyway noted.

I am most impressed with the color of the tundra at this time. Vaccinium vitis-idea is in blossom and very abundant on the higher drier areas. The flowers are pink. The variety of lichens of several colors and brown sphagnum moss make a background color which is extremely variegated and ideal for a mouse with the pellage of Dicrostonyx. Nothing approaching this occurs at the Pitmegea except in the restricted barrens. It is my impression from the literature that

Childs
1959



Dicrostonyx

23 July    Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska

This lichen-barren increases as one goes north and the ability of Dicrostonyx to assume the summer pellage may give it the advantage by concealing coloration over Lemmus. The latter would certainly stand out on the gray (generally) background. Another factor, of course, would be the presence of marshes to which Lemmus seems to be particularly fond - or adapted. Until data is accumulated we must assume an equal ability to survive in the snow and cold. However, the lack of furred feet in Lemmus may be significant. Cover is significant and it is my impression that Lemmus prefers more cover that Dicrostonyx. Both utilize what is available but there is less where the latter is usually taken. In any case the original observation of the concealing coloration of the summer pellage of Dicrostonyx on the lichen-Vaccinium barrens is, I think, valid.

Childs
1963

Dicrostonyx groenlandicus

16 June Wainwright, Alaska

2 Taken in traplines.

26 June Barrow, Alaska

One taken on Beach Ridge in Trapline 5.

12 July Bernard River, Banks Island, NWT., Canada

We doubled Maher's catch of this species by catching one in an obviously active hole in the Dryas barrens along the river's edge. Large holes, perhaps 2"-3" in diameter were seen frequently and I assumed to be the activity of this species as Lemmus does not do this. These holes were generally grouped into a burrow systems with a different, most lush vegetation than the surrounding areas. Needless to say they apparently are not abundant this year

CHILDS
1951

BROWN LEMMING
Lemmus trimucronatus

June 7 Point Barrow, Alaska
Schiller caught one alive on the snow.
June Rose got 2 S of ARL
June 30 Thompson's gang got 3 in live traps, all of which died.
July 3 Thompson got one alive that gave birth to 5 young.
July 19 Gil got one in traps 2 mi S
Aug 7 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska
We took one in a trap line along the willows on Aug. 4 and another in a wet area at the edge of the lake today.

Childs
1955

Lemmus trimucronatus

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska

Set out transect 3 in low center polygon area last night and ran it at 1100 this morning. Got 4 lemmings and one longspur. Nearby observed wet pellets of mud that had been recently pushed out of a burrow - rain had started an hour or so earlier.

July 2 ♀74 in $L_2$(8-566). Upon release it started to feed immediately on a moss. It seemed weak although the weather was warm and there was little wind. It feed with a jerky pulling movement at the food. It then feed on some grass which it seemed to have trouble cutting but when it had cut off about a 2" piece it ~~sss~~ several second consumed it, starting from one end. It showed no fear or any attempt to find shelter. I watched it on hands and knees from about 2' and it appeared to ignore or not even recognize my presence. It seemed to prefer the moss which was scattered, only a handful of spikes of it being close by. Grass (Carex aquatilis ~~Arctagrostis~~) was more abundant and was utilized second. Merick brought in a Lemmy caught south of the Village yesterday that they had tried to keep alive in the lab. It had been fed on lettuce but apparently this was not sufficient

Childs
1955



July 5 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska

Found a ♂ under a oil drum.

July 6 See journal. Evidence of great concentration on the S side of the runway in area bull dozed up + invaded by moss only. Greatest scat concentration I have ever seen. Depth of snow there may have been an important factor in concentrating them in one area.

July 8 Had tremendous luck in $T_2$ — 7 animals. This line parallels a marsh, lying on the east side of a low ridge. Drainage is good. Polygon ridges are not well developed. Grass is not abundant and some willow is present. Trapped both species at the same stake so there is some overlap in the use of runways. I now believe the scats to be much smaller ~~than~~ for Lemmus than Dicrostonyx and ~~more~~ cone shaped. Scattered pellets ~~are~~ would be difficult to see. A careful search for them might reveal that they are more scattered and less collected into scatoria ~~for~~ Dicrostonyx than Lemmus.

July 9 Score at 2000 28 Lemmus; 15 Dicrostonyx; 8 Microtus. The sub-adults have been most abundant in the later catches in $T_2$. This is probably due to their parents being caught at about the time of independance and the young being forced out to forage for themselves. One of the small ♀♀ was pregnant, an almost absence

July 9 Atkasook, Meade River, Alaska

occurrence.

This species is noted for the abundance of scatological evidence it leaves behind. One of the microtine trio, probably this species makes scatoria in its runways in which by use, the scats are broken down into a greenish cement-like covering that may be a foot long in the runway. In another instance Chuck & I found a winter nest from which was extended a scat plug 1½" in diameter & over a foot long. This had remained intact when the snow melted. I did not observe the scat platforms except in marshy flat areas.

July 15 Wainwright, Alaska

See journal. Very abundant here. Carex and Eriophorum tussocks completely mowed last winter. Windrows of dead grass everywhere yet little above ground activity seen. Caught one on surface. 14 in traps since last night. No evidence of Dicrostonyx yet.

July 16 On running the transects it was apparent that Lemmus was no longer using the tops of the polygons but that it was down in the

Childs
1955



## Lemmus

July 16 Wainwright, Alaska

*Carex* where there were runways + in areas where runways had not developed as yet. The tops of the polygons have been mowed clean and all tussocks are showing several inches of new growth with no last years growth remaining. Hahn told me that all last winter there was grass showing thru the snow in this area and that the snow was not more than 3" on the tops of the polygons. Prevailing wind is from the East. There may be as much as 5" green growth on the *Carex* in the troughs between the polygons where the lemmings are now found.

July 18 Caught a ♀ in a runway. It did not run but froze and I only just happened to look down at it. Maybe we miss more of these because of this behavior.

July 19 Caught a ♀ in $T_3$ by hind foot. She gave birth to 6 young after dragging the trap some distance. The picture on why $T_4$ is not producing when it is essentially in the same habitat at $T_3$ is not clear. There is more recently filled in low polygon centers with sparse vegetation than in $T_3$.

July 22 Have not seen the extensive scatoria in runways as I noted at the Meade. In trapping south of the village in the marsh I got several double catches of adult Lemmus in

Childs
1955

# Lemmus

July 22 Wainwright, Alaska

traps set close together. I would say at present predators are not a problem here for the lemmings. Almost no jaegers or owls around. It is interesting and perhaps significant to note the 3 dimensional use of polygonized areas. In winter it seems they utilize the material on the polygon tops & move downward as the snow melts and as the water drains and dries in the troughs. In many instances I noted runways paralleling the pool edges at different levels as if the animals move downward into the cover as it becomes available. There is, of course, a lot of growth in the troughs of Carex (?) while water is still there and the lemmings can move into the interstices when drying takes place. I suppose that in high years, that this growth is removed as soon as it dries enough around it & become vulnerable to lemming attack. Some of the Eskimos indicated that they catch lemmings in their ice cellars. These would act as natural pit traps being some 20-40 feet deep

Childs
1955

Lemmings



[illegible]

Aug 5 Point Barrow, Alaska

Fopy went out with me to the $T_3$ area while I counted pellets. During this time he caught 2 adult lemmings and dug out 2 meats, one containing 5 young and the other 6. I put both litters in my pocket together for lack of containers. The sex and weight of the combined total of 11 appearing to be identical in age are listed below.

| | | Sex | wt. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MVZ 2197 | 1 | ♀ | 9.3 | 68 |
| | 2 | ♀ | 8.8 | |
| | 3 | ♂ T3mm. | 8.8 | |
| | 4 | ♂ T3mm | 8.6 | |
| | 5 | ♀ | 8.4 | |
| 2201 | 6 | ♂ T2.5 | 8.6 | 72 |
| [illegible] | 7 | ♂ T3.0 | 9.1 | 70 |
| 2203 | 8 | ♀ | 8.4 | 71 |
| [illegible] | 9 | ♀ | 8.4 | 69 |
| [illegible] | 10 | ♂ T3.0 | 8.8 | 72 |
| [illegible] | 11 | ♂ T3.0 | 8.4 | 70 |

Sex ratio 6 ♂♂ : 5 ♀♀

Aug. 6 Point Barrow, Alaska

With the setting of transects 11 + 12 we had our attention focused on a remarkable population phenomenon for rodents. In the drainage area south of the Voth polygons we found Lemmus to be extremely abundant in an area that was under water a month ago. The vegetation consists of Carex along the edge and Arctophila in the very wet spots along the apis of the drainage. This reaches 6-10" in height and is very dense allowing the development of typical microtine runways. In the time this habitat has been available the runways have been built + maintained as well as those at the Meade a month ago. In $T_{12}$ we got 27 animals, half of which were classified as adults. It would seem that the lemmings in the surrounding areas have moved in as soon as the habitat became dry enough for them, allowing their utilization of the forage produced while it was still under water. The same situation has been noted in other areas in places where

Childs
1955



## Lemmus

Aug 6 Point Barrow, Alaska

water has receded and there is a good thick growth of grass. This appears to be a dry year. Almost no rain so far. I do not see why there is thick growth in some of these flooded areas and little growth in others appearing identical. Regardless, Lemmus appears to act like its microtine ancestors (relations) in more temperate areas where they require wetness and cover.

In misc. endeavors I have taken Foxy (my dog) with me and he has been very helpful in turning up specimens. His nose is good and when he starts to dig there is always a lemming present. He dug out 2 nests with 5 + 6 young respectively. The possibility of running a dog transect census count has some merit, at least with a mouser!

On the basis of weights (oven dry) of lab taken pellets and density of pellets in high polygon, there is 18,112,500 pellets/acre and 1208 lbs/acres. Figures on back of page.

no/dec = 45
x 100
4500/$m^2$
x 4025
18,112,500 pellets/acre

each pellet weighs 3 mg.
45 pellets weigh 1.35 g

wt/$dec^2$ 1.35
x 100
wt/$m^2$ 135.00
x 4025
543,375 g/acre
450 ⟌ 543,375
1208 lbs/acre

Childs
1955



## Lemmings

Aug. 13 Point Barrow, Alaska

In a lemming nest in the center of a small hummock a few feet from $T_6$-2-3? I found a bumble bees nest. It contained 22 bees and one hatched in the lab. what would Monty do without us?

There is no doubt that there is little or no "night" activity with the fall in light intensity and temperature. There was frost the last couple of nights. Live + dead trapping on the late run has been poor.

In the run between $T_1$ + $T_5$ across the south end of central marsh I note a great similarity in habitat to that of the flat south of Roth area. Particularly is the area along the drainage in the marsh plot similar with the arctophila center band and sedge outside. Runways are abundant. There are large wind-rows of winter mown grass along the drainage. This would be a good area for more study along with the high polygons south of there. I seem to recall we got Dicrostonyx there in 51.

Childs
1955



Lemmings

Aug 16 Point Barrow, Alaska

Observations of McNab's captive lemmings indicate that they prefer to defecate in their drinking water. If this behavior presists in the field and their natural tendency is to do so in pools during the summer, then the pellet count on any area would be low where there is water available. This also would make the fertilizer elements available sooner as the pellets breakdown rapidly in water. Is this one possible factor for the more luxuriant growth in polygon troughs? It hardly seems likely that water is the prime factor for this growth.

Aug. 21 Heavy rains for last 2 days. A great deal of water has collected in areas dry before. In the area south of Voth water was an inch deep in some of the active run-ways. Appeared still inhabitable by the lemmings and more were seen out in the more marginal habitats on either side of the drainage. The dog didn't get any.

Aug 23 Point Barrow, Alaska

The snow fall of yesterday was of sufficient amount to fill in most depressions and to sift in most of the vegetation, as this is the first significant snow fall of the year it seemed wise to observe the conditions it brought about in some detail. Kosanda & I went out to the Voth area, the area south where the enclosures are in the marsh, and gasoline ridge in the area of transects 1+2.

In the high polygon area there was some good sized drifts on the SW side up to a foot in depth. On the windward side the ground was bare or some snow held behind small vegetation such as Luzula confusa. In this short time burrowing had begun and some rather well developed systems were found. There appears to be surface openings periodically along the burrow which is through the snow with snow top and bottom. These appear to be mainly in runways already developed thru Carex principally. In one area the snow was

Aug 23 Point Barrow, Alaska

pushed up resembling a mole tunnel of more sunny climate. On the SW side of exclosure 41 there was some snow caught and held by the hardware cloth so that there was a difference of about an inch between the inside and outside snow levels. The heavy pellet area in exclosure 44 was bare as was the heavy pellet areas surrounding it. Do they come out of the snow to defecate? The snow depth was 11-12 cm. around ex 31 and it was a harder more solid covering than 21 or 11. Ex 21 had 7-9 cm of snow with much more vegetation showing than in 31. Ex 11 had 12-13 cm snow with the seed heads of Dupontia some 18 cm above the surface. I suspect more snow will be held here than in the other more exposed and less vegetated areas. There has been some melting today and the snow is of good snowman-making consistency. Tonight about 2130 it

August 23 Point Barrow, Alaska.
started to rain or sleet so that it froze upon hitting the ground. I do not feel that the snow was a possible mortality factor but the cold and rain of this evening may be a problem.
It was Hanna's opinion that the snow was generally too hard for burrowing in winter. If, as happened this time, the first snow is not packed in the protected vegetated areas, then the main burrows could be worked out before packing and hardening take place.

Aug 24 Went out to the beach ridge and central marsh to look at snow and ice conditions. Near the exclosures on top of the ridge there was a good snow cover with a 1/4" of ice on top. All the projecting vegetation was covered with a similar thickness of ice. This did not seem to be a problem to any lemmings that might be resident there. However, in the marsh there was much less snow as a considerable amount of melting had taken place. I doubt the thickness of the snow

Aug 24 Point Barrow, Alaska

and ice would be an effective insulator in this area —— and this is where the lemmings are! We did not find any evidence of active lemming activity in this area. My dog did not find any either and his nose and ears are better than mine. Snow is still falling spasmodically. I hope to check the Voth area again tomorrow.

Childs
1955

Lemmings

Aug 25 Point Barrow Alaska

Went out to the south Acklamie areas after lunch today. Much melting is going on and the snow cover is broken up. Some runways were found with a snow bottom and pellets lying on the snow about every 2 inches of tunnel. In many spots the snow was completely gone. Ice still clung to the types of vegetation that was above the snow level Tuesday. I am not certain in my mind what effect, if any, this weather would have on the lemming population. At first I thought it would severely affect the late crop of young but I am not at all certain that this is the case. Only time & Chester's specimens will tell.

Childs
1957



# Lemmus trimucronatus

June 8 Barrow, Alaska

News from Wainwright indicates Lemmus very abundant. 400 have been purchased. Was gibt? almost none here at Barrow.

June 9 The Wainwright sample of 200 contained no pregnant or recently pregnant females. Cade said that there was snow left only between the polygons. No predators there. Most peculiar situation

June 10 Enroute to Wainwright, Alaska

In a plane trip to Pitmegea R. and return to Wainwright we saw relatively few Jaegers and only a couple of owls, an indication of low lemming numbers generally. Most of these predators were in the vicinity of Wainwright.

June 11 Wainwright, Alaska

Cade and I set out 612 traps on the four transects this morning. Lemming sign was abundant and we both saw several live ones. The boys brought in about 2 dozen live ones last night an hour after we got here and we purchased 21 of them. They are abundant here, judging from the ease that they collected 400 last week. The vegetation does not appear much worst than it was in 1955. There does seem to be more utilization of the willows

Childs 1957



Lemmus

June 11 Wainwright, Alaska

both as food and shelter than I recall. The troughs of the high center polygons are well clipped but this is usual. Pomarine and Long-tail Jaegers are here but not too abundant. Code saw a Long-tail actually catch an adult lemming and it was reluctant to leave it when Tom approached. From the vegetation I would not guess that the population was much higher than 1955 and I understand that there were moderate numbers here in 1956. How does this gibe with the classic picture? Perhaps the complexity, particularly the height of the vegetation, combined with a longer growing season protects them and furnishes food at a rate which allows them to maintain a high population level. Yet predators appear to play a minor role here. There were more snowy owls in 1955 and less jaegers, neither dense enough to be a controlling factor. Is there some other factor involved? If so, what? Intraspecific strife? How can the population be so abundant without apparent suffering of the vegetation?

Childs
1957



## Lemmus

June 11 Wainwright, Alaska

In the first running of the four transects we caught 7 lemmings, 5 of them in $T_1$. Considering the evidence for abundance of Lemmus here the lack of correlation of catch with obvious abundance leaves some doubt as to the validity of the index. Transect #1 was screwed up with extra stakes stakes missing and/or out of line. Situation normal.

June 12 The marsh where $T_3$ & $T_4$ are located shows a fairly high degree of utilization although there are only a few lemmings there now and these on the high edges of the polygons. It must be that the winter population is spread out fairly thinly and retreats from the marsh to the high center stuff as the snow melts and the area becomes too wet for occupancy. This movement increases the density of the population in the high center polygons which already have utilized the grass between polygons. The increased population then really mows the grass until the snow melts there which should be several weeks later than the marsh. With this snow-melt

Childs
1957



Lemmus

June 12 Wainwright, Alaska

here, then a large, constricted population is exposed, giving the impression of great abundance as seen by the Eskimo catch. Within a few weeks, the marsh is again inhabitable, some growth of grass has taken place, and the lemmings can re-invade the marsh area. Thus the abundance which we have seen is due to the time we got here this year and examined the area and not due to any great fluctuation in population density. A check later in the summer would be of great value in proving this hypothesis. The population here seems fairly stable since 1955 which is somewhat puzzling.
The few lemmings we have taken in the marsh have been on well developed polygons with good burrowing sites and these were 2 large adults to one medium sub-adult. The bigger animals could maintain themselves on these few favorable site and did not have to move. If this theory is true, a later check

Childs
1957



Lemmus

June 12 Wainwright, Alaska
should show a higher than normal amount of younger animals utilizing less favorable sites as the adults should be less likely to move.

28 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
after a lot of searching and running of 4 transects (612 traps / 3 days) there is still only the evidence from owl pellets that this species occurs here.

4 July at long last I trapped a ♀ (pregnant) in $T_5$ - 8.2 in high arctophila marsh.

5 July a ♂ was taken at $T_5$ - 7.2 at the edge of arctophila under a willow. The suggestion Cantlon made of the high nutritive value of grass vs. sedge may be correct one regarding cycles farther North. Here it would appear as a summer refuge to carry over the low populations as well as its being a habitat with plenty of cover. The grass is thick and about a foot high. Much of the growth has taken place since I got here as well as its becoming available because of drainage. This area certainly is dryer over a greater area than any other place I've worked in the arctic. This is due to the low humidity and the warm south winds which blow most of the time. ~~[illegible]~~,

Childs
1957

<u>Lemmus</u>



7 July <u>Putnegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska</u>
See journal and Rangifer for comments

Childs
1958

Lemmus



19 May Barrow, Alaska

Max reported a local lemming high last October late in the month south of Peard Bay. Lemmings were seen by some of the lab Eskimos in numbers running on the surface ~~as well as dead lemmings on the surface~~. Needless to say it did not occur to them to collect a few hundred. The area included in this was about 15 miles long and 5 miles wide. Snow was late and light. In early Nov. there was a heavy freeze and village Eskimos passing through after it reported dead lemmings on the surface.

At Barrow snow is deep on the ridge and central marshes. Snow is almost to the top of the enclosures and not particularly collected there over other areas. Thus the depth is slightly less than 3 ft. Kicking through the snow to the surface one finds a heavy layer of ice which should have made for a poor winter for mice. I predict another low year here.

Childs
1958

## Lemmus

23 May Wainwright, Alaska

See journal account. Some melting of snow on high center polygons along the coast. Here the tops of polygons back of the church are just peeping through. In a short walk back in that area we found a dead lemming on the surface. Crawford reported an early snow in September which melted in a thaw in October. In early November there was a sudden cold snap which resulted in a big die-off with dead lemmings easily obtained in large numbers by the kids on the surface. Apparently the kids were clever enough to store the specimens which Crawford would not buy in their ice cellars in anticipation of future sales. I have instructed Crawford and Brewer to purchase only live ones this year. It is only reasonable to suspect that any lemmings purchased after November were from that kill. It will be highly significant to see if any numbers survived this "density independent

Childs
1958

23 May Wainwright, Alaska
factor. From this evidence to date it is hard to believe that any significant numbers survived. Weather records for October and November should be examined and compared with past years for similar weather patterns. This type of catastrophe would hardly be part of the cyclic picture except to throw the periodicity out of phase.

25 May No sign of lemmings seen in the most exposed area south of the village on the ridge. Ice covers everything under the snow. I cannot believe that any numbers survived the winter.

28 May Snow still covers the marsh trap lines but melting has proceeded considerably on higher polygon tops. I found one rotted lemming in my walk over there this morning. Yesterday the Eskimo boys brought in about 10 which they said they had caught alive but as they were rotting it was obviously not true so we did not buy them.

Childs
1958

28 May Wainwright, Alaska

Crawford is not buying any more as he is leaving and it is obvious now that we would only get fall killed stuff that has been stored in cellars. The vegetation appeared to be heavily utilized. There was little grass stems left and even the willows were eaten bare of leaves and bark was chewed to some extent.

31 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Mouse sign is considerably greater now than at anytime last year. This coupled with the presence of predators, 2 species of Owls and arctic Fox foretells a good year.

3 June There are tussock areas that show very heavy utilization locally. This is particularly so in the peat area in bird plot 2.

11 June Finally got two, both in $T_6$-10.0. This trap site was under a small willow and a runway ran along the edge of a polygon crack.

22 July Pitmegea River, 2 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Got one in $T_{12}$ in tussocks!

Childs
1959

Lemmus trimucronatus

16 June | Barrow, Alaska
Sign indicates a fair population here this spring. We caught one in both area.

18 June Drum area shows the most utilization I have seen. Runways and winter clipping abundant.

24 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One each taken in $T_1$ 8.4 (♀A) & $T_2$ 2.8 (♂A) in exposed sites. Cade got one at $T_1$ - 8.6 (♂SA) on 5/24

25 June 2 found dead + washed up high on bar at mouth of river

1 July ♂A taken in $T_7$ - 4.8

3 July " " " $T_7$ - 6.2

18 July Wainwright, Alaska
See Dicrostonyx for early season report.
Took one in $T_3$ - 4.2.

23 July Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska
Took one juv. ♀ in traps near the village yesterday.
Very little mouse sign here now.

31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
3 Taken in transects.

Childs
1960

Lemmus

June 3 Barrow, Alaska

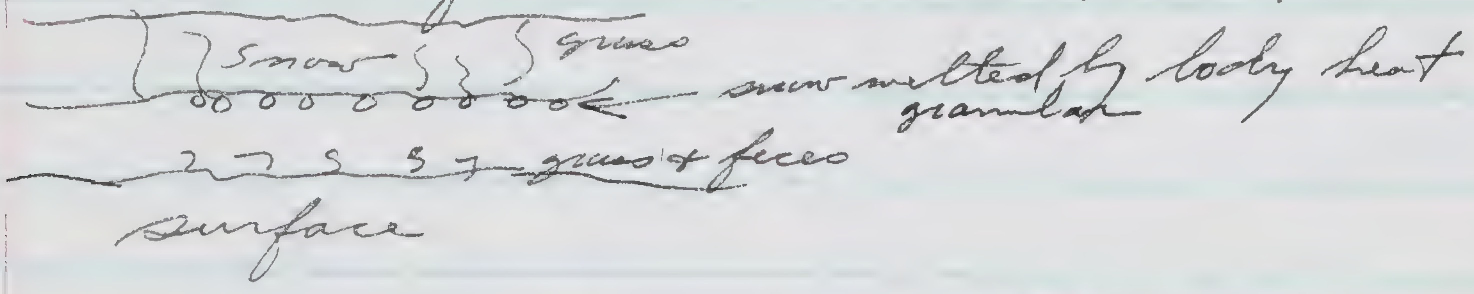
Went to beach ridge with Maher in P.M. Lemmus everywhere in bare areas. Tundra riddled and denuded. They were feeding on what could be dug out of the permafrost. All surface vegetation gone except mosses which they seem to ignore. Watched a weasel kill. Caught a black one.

Childs
1960

<u>Lemmus trimucronatus</u>

21 May Barrow, Alaska

Signs of lemmings everywhere back of the lab. We dug down to the surface in several places and found runways everywhere continuous to form caverns as below.




No owls or jaegers seen although several pellets were found.

23 May Took weasel out to beach ridge and central marsh. Collected 91 lemmings by hand! These were caught by circling an area of thin snow app. 200' in diameter and slowly decreasing the circle. 24 were taken by one such circle! Glaucous gulls were feeding on <u>Lemmus</u> on central marsh. No owls or jaegers. The sample of 91 was 61 ♂♂ to 29 ♀. Nearly all were adult size. The few small ones appear sexually mature. I wonder if these may be examples of retarded growth?

25 May Had no luck with our collecting system as snow either too deep or gone. Wonder if the glazed, thin ice acted as lens increasing heat and thereby concentrating lemmings on 5/23. Those areas are all gone now.

Childs
1963

Lemmus trimucronatus

16 June Wainwright, Alaska
Winter sign patchy but in some places intense. Trapping yielded 13 of first run. Predators scarce

18 June Catch at night has been nil in traplines. Weather has been clear sunny & warm. Is there a relationship here?

5 July Barrow, Alaska
After fair success in June, it is now almost impossible to find lemmings anyway. See Journal for comments by Mullen and Eskimo catch

12 July Bernard River, Banks Island, NWT, Canada
Maher has taken one in a month's time. They appear common in owl pellets so this may be just a bad year.

11 July Inuvik, NWT, Canada
Caught one along runway very near a clethrionomys

20 July Ikroavik Lake. Lemming sign is the best here of anywhere in the Barrow area.

11 August Wainwright, Alaska
There has been a considerable increase since the early run — 30 & 34 in many runs. Runways and cuttings are everywhere in the Carex & Eriophorum between polygons. I predict a high year here next year.

CHILDS
1951

MICROTUS

July 10 Umiat, 400 ft., Alaska

Gil got 3 last night and one tonight. One looks peculiar and is probably a different species. Setzer got a good series both here and at Gubic I believe. He also got them at Pt. Hope as did Schiller earlier. Setzer calls the strange one oeconomus and the others miurus.

Aug 7 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

We were very successful in trapping both species at this locality. It was apparent from our trapping results that miurus was an inhabitant of the willows with a sandy substrate and relatively thick green ground cover while oeconomus was found in the wet, swampy areas, along the "frost heaves." This was borne out by the last trap line which we ran along the edge of the lake. There was one of these "permafrost ridges" near the wind sock which paralleled the lake edge. The catch was 6 Oeconomus, 1 miurus, and 1 Lemmus thus showing some overlap. Miurus was particularly abundant and they could be heard and often seen scurrying about under the willows. Fresh diggings and holes were everywhere in the tall willows.

Childs
1955

Microtus oeconomus

July 5 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska

Set out 23 specials along the river's edge where the polygons were breaking. Quite a lot of willow a foot high. It was raining. Got one animal (♂1973) this morning.

July 6 See Journal.

July 9 Runways in grass on the flat along the river are probably made by these animals. I did not have enough time to trap for them in other areas or to look for *Clethrionomys* or *M. miurus*.

Childs
1957

Microtus oeconomus

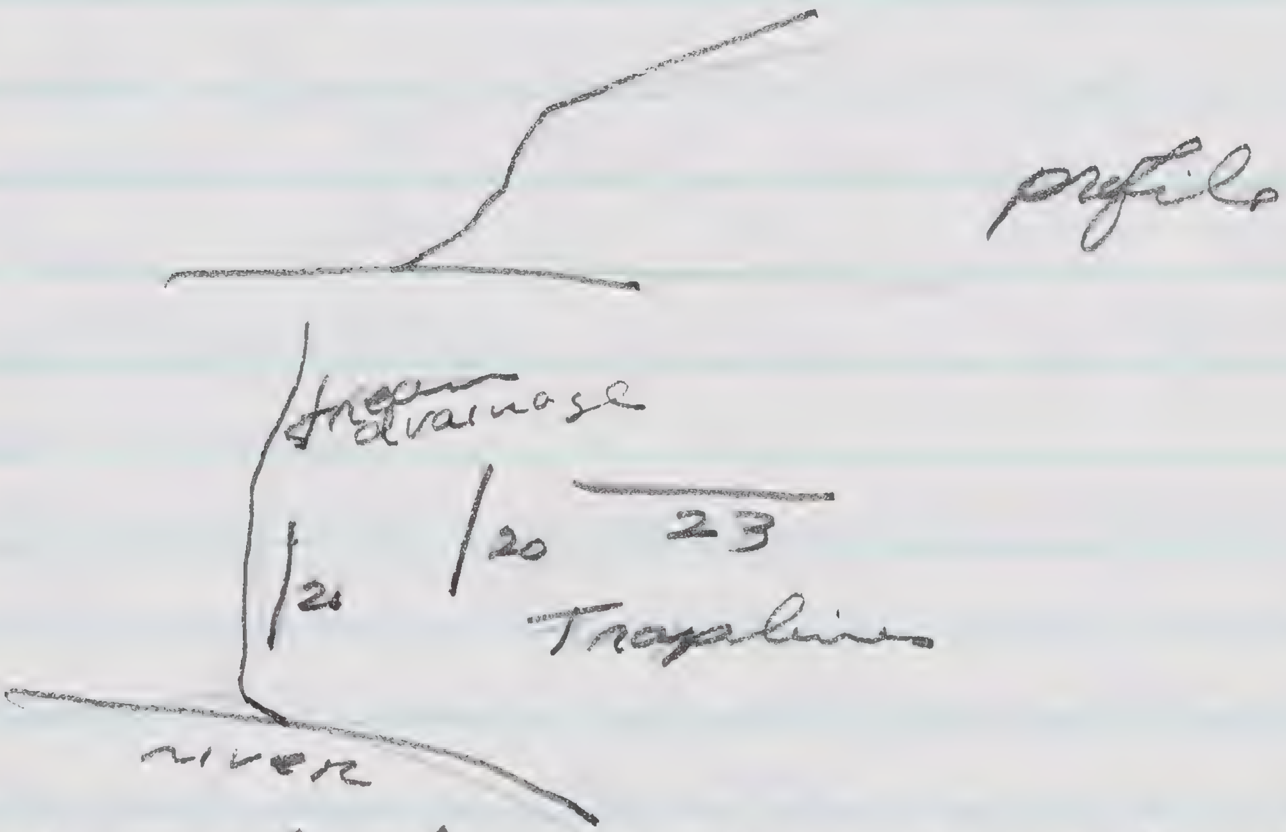
26 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Caught one in $T_3$ - 0.2. Carex - eriophorum.
4 July Caught one in $T_6$ - 7.2 in 1' high arctophila. There is evidence of a small population in this marsh from fresh cuttings. The situation looks like the area south of Voth area at Barrow but much less extensive
7 July See journal and Rangifer for comments.
13 July Caught one $T_8$ - 4.2 under E. vaginatum tussock.
19 July Camp A. Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Five caught under 4' willows (See M. miurus)
21 July Camp B
Caught one on hillside under Birch. Hollards of willow reminiscent of chaparral in Strawberry Canyon with duff etc. underneath. Area very mossy and low catch due undoubtedly to the rain
23 July Camp C. Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Caught 4/4 here along edge of Carex aquatilis and E. scheuchzeri marsh where runways were well developed and haypiles of carex 1-2" long were cut and spread out. apparently both species of microtus do well in the upland and if there is habitat segregation it is that miurus takes the drier areas where it can dig and make extensive runways and this species takes the wetter spots. Cover seems less important to this species.

Childs 1957

# Microtus miurus

19 July Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska A

In the first 20 traps placed under willows 4' high along a drainage into the river, we caught 4 plus one oeconomus. The ground cover was a bright green moss and fair runways were developed in it. One other, the smallest in the catch, was taken in among some tussocks. I had suspected Clethrionomys here!




20 traps along brow of ridge in 2' willow failed to yield mice. 23 traps in well developed Moundy Wet Meadow yielded only 1 miurus.

20 July Caught 6 in Moundy Wet Meadow or under shrubs where there were mosses. ♀ 2658 had teats which looked used although she had a bridge. The traps were set in a variety of situations from no cover to willow or birch and animals were caught in all except the high willow with dried leaves underneath. Cutting seen in sedge Marsh along peat stringers (probably are M. oeconomus) as it is more their type of territory.

Childs
1957

M. minimus

21 July Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska B

It was raining when I set the traps on a high side that was very "mousey" with well-developed runways and lots of holes and partially excavated peaty areas there was little grass or sedge in this area. the willows and birch were well developed with lots of duff underneath reminiscent of chaparral on south slope of Strawberry Canyon. It seemed an excellent place for mice but because of the rain I only got 2. It rained all the next day and evening so I did not set traps

23 July Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska "C"

Mouse-wise this was our most interesting camp. We were camped on a flat sedge marsh area close to the river in an area where the river valley is quite narrow and I expect water backs up from ice jams. In this sedge marsh we saw many runways of recent origin and which were strewn with cuttings 1-2" long of ~~Carex~~ aquatilis. This marsh was a mere pocket, surrounded on all sides by shrubs (willow + birch) being 50 x 150' app. All around the periphery was a well-developed trail. It was along this trail under felt leaf willow that we got most of the mice, including both species using

23 July Pitmegea River mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

the same runway. 2 depressions between tussocks [?] on the hill we caught a few animals, again both species. In a well developed patch 50'×200' of birch 18" tall about 20 traps failed to yield any mice although it looked mousey. If Clethrionomys occurs anywhere in this area it should have been found in this stuff with the thick mat of dry moss for a ground cover. While taking some pictures of a magnificent floral display, I heard the song of the Singing Vole and I nearly caught one by hand and would of if it hadn't bitten me!

24 July Pitmegea River, 12 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Another good catch of mice here, 8 Mm + 3 Mre. the flat areas of Mossy Wet Meadow are vegetated like the areas near the base camp. the grasses and sedges are widely spaced ∴ not providing much food or cover. The SW facing hillsides still have well developed shrubs on them providing the cover miurus seems to need.

Pitmegea River, 7 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Miurus habitat as I see it runs out about here, a good place to camp and study next year.

Childs
1958

# *Microtus oeconomus*

2 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Caught ♂ + ♀ $T_2$ - 4.6.

7 June See remarks under Dicrostonyx. These animals are very abundant this year.

1 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Made set 50 traps and caught only one ♂ of this species in tussock wet meadow on terrace near camp.

8 July One, presumably this species, found in gut of juvenile Rough-leg Hawk.

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Mouse sign is very abundant. Saw several in walking around marsh. Got one ♀ in a trap while setting the next set.

Childs
1958

Microtus miurus

July 11 Pitmegea River, 16 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several taken in transects — all immature
Very little sign of mouse activity. None
in area at 12 mi where we caught
several last year

18 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
A very local colony of Singing Voles was
found this afternoon at the edge of the
bluff behind camp — by their singing.
They were very active so that I got some
pictures and 6 immatures in 23 traps
in less than an hour. I remember
trapping all along the edge of the
bluff last year with no success.

Childs
1959

# Microtus oeconomus

21-29 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Populations are considerably higher than in 1958
Comparative figures for transects follow

| | Aug 1958 | May 1959 | June 1959 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 45 | (4) | 56 |
| 2 | 21 | | 59 |
| 3 | 32 | | 53 |
| 4 | 38 | | 65 |
| 5 | 38 | | |
| 6 | 67 | | |
| 7 | 70 | | |
| 8 | 76 | | |

There is a great deal of winter activity to be seen. Many sedge marsh areas were completely mowed but now, (6/29) have 4-6" of growth. These areas of winter activity have few mice as there is no cover for them. This is true of $T_6$ where extensive areas are not inhabited for the lack of old grass for cover. Runways are extensive and very well developed and beaten down an inch or more below the general surface where spongy material occurs. Winter nests are common and occasionally contain the remains of a mouse. As yet no sign of weasels or shrews to account for the above. Some areas show much digging with mounds of fresh dirt, resembling gopher

Child
1959

M. Oeconomus

29 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
mounds scattered in a radius of 6-10'. These occur, of course, on the drier sites. There have been no signs of Arctic Foxes but one Red Fox was seen on Marmot Ridge. There have been sight records of grizzlies but no wolverines. The lack of mammalian predators is strange in view of the concentration of all three species of jaeger (breeding) and Short-eared Owl (scattered breeding). Rough-leg Hawks are nesting at Falcon Rock. Snowy Owls were abundant in May but moved out — why? Jaegers were quick to utilize traplines for mice and take about 10 per line in 3 days. The fearlessness of the Long-Tails in driving the Pomarine out of their territory is remarkable. The latter species seems to be passing through to the west in flocks of up to 26, perhaps headed for the Pacific and a better food source. They do not appear to have ~~been~~ able to breed at Barrow, due to the late season there and moderate lemming numbers.
At the cabin we found two piles of droppings on top of large piles of mouse dropping + near winter nest that had been exposed by melting snow. We took

Childs
1959

M. oeconomus

29 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
To be Least Weasel.

4 July Completed running transects 1-8 in a.m. Took 465 in 13 days!

5 July Found remains of dead microtus in 4 out of 9 winter nests examined. Maher claims this typical least weasel activity but admits possibility of cannibalism. On walk to Wolverine Mt. along Willow Creek, winter activity + nests were common. Upon return over tundra saw a group of 5 and several other single animals alive among tussocks.

12 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Voles continue to be abundant here although there was very little sign at 16 mi near $T_9$ + $T_{10}$. My impression is that there is not much difference in number of runways + winter cutting, etc. than last year. Predators are not abundant. I have seen only 2 pairs of Long-tailed Jaegers and one Parasitic pair. a Rough-leg pair is resident across the river. Saw one ♀ Marsh Hawk today.

23 July Meade River Coal Mine, Alaska
So far none have been taken. Scouting on the first terrace where they were abundant in 1955 showed almost no sign. The usual cutting of sedges so typical of this species was not observed.

Childs 1959



## M. oeconomus

31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Runways and signs very abundant. Transects producing fewer mice and most adults appear to be out or going out of reproductive condition

4 Aug Check early vs late runs for % adults. Also sex ratio - seems predominately male in sub-adults. E. angustifolium in $T_5$ - $T_8$ is knee high. Why is $T_8$ so productive? Marsh behind tent is riddled with runways, hardly a square foot without one.

6 Aug Immatures now reside in the tent. This is probably due to population pressure

Childs
1959

Microtus miurus

29 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Two were taken in $T_1$ by Caden in May but none since. I wonder why.
$T_1$ – 1.8 ♂A ; 4.2 ♂A
Could these be the last remnants of the small pocket of Singing Voles found in August last year?
31 July Caught one M. oeconomus in 5 Traps where Mm was found last year.
4 Aug None in Traplines

Childs
1960

Microtus oeconomus

27 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Caught 3 each in $T_1$ & $T_2$ this a.m. Almost no sign of winter activity. Most of last summer's runways are obliterated. Even the best developed runways do not appear used. It would be impossible to tell from the condition of the tundra that there were any mice here last year. In the tussocks around $T_4$ there were a few showing winter cutting but nothing compared to last year. It would be my guess that the first cold snap of the winter wiped them out. CHECK WEATHER RECORDS ON THIS.

28 May No winter nests have been found and there is almost no sign of winter activity. My guess is a weather catastrophe in the fall is responsible for crash.

31 May There is considerably more sign — runways and green clippings in the area of $T_{5-8}$. The catch may be low due to the cold weather and snow off & on during the runs. Jaegers (L.T.) seem to be running the lines pretty regularly for lack of any other source of food!

June 1 Pulled up traps and got 6 mice. This due to change in weather — warm & no snow. Much more sign in $T_{5-8}$ area where dead Carex & Eriophorum provide cover.

Childs
1960

Microtus ~~[illegible]~~ miurus

28 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Found a dead sub-adult at edge of snow bank under ridge where Ed Clebsch & I found the colony in 1958.

Childs
1963

*Microtus oeconomus*

11 July Inuvik, NWT, Canada
Caught 4 near runway
28 July Cape Thompson, Alaska
Runways and [illegible] are to be seen everywhere. I collected 2 large adult males [illegible] boards and boy in camp got 2 [illegible] a ♀ with 5 juveniles. They are as abundant and obvious as the 1959 high at Pitmegea.
31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Very little sign of mouse activity here. No owl pellets [illegible] [illegible]. 2 caught in 2 traplines first day, 3 and 1 [illegible] second day. 2 [illegible] on 8/1.

CHILDS
1951

Arctic Fox
Alopex lagopus

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
I found a dead pup in good condition in a rusty trap on the marsh. Thompson reported seeing an adult within the last week & found an occassionally used den SW of camp.

June 27 We found a den on the stream bank on 88

July 7 It was prob. one of these that dug out a snow bunting nest at the point.

July 18 One dug out a lemming hole on the trap line 2 mi S of camp

July 29 Sign seen along the trap line.

Childs
1957

## Alopex lagopus

June 10 Enroute to Wainwright, Alaska

One seen from the plane between Icy Cape and Point Lay.

Childs, 1958

# Alopex lagopus

25 May Wainwright, Alaska

Gary Hodgekins, pilot, reported seeing numbers of owls, foxes, and ptarmigan inland south of Barrow recently. He said "there was lots of wild-life there now." This is interesting in light of the fact that foxes and owls have been practically unknown this year at Barrow or Wainwright.

30 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Fresh tracks seen near old campsite

31 May Found two adults asleep on the tundra to the west of Loon Marsh. They were bedded down in an area we had seen some Snow geese earlier. It was surprising to find them there when there was drier ground and higher ground a few hundred feet away. I walked to within 100' of them when the smaller and thinner of the two which I took to be the male apparently heard me as the wind was in my favor. He ran fast for over a mile while the other fatter (= pregnant ♀?) trotted off after him, stopping often to watch us. Coupled with the more obvious evidence of mouse activity makes the prospects for this year look good. A number of

Childs 1958

## Alopex lagopus

31 May Pitmegea River Cape Sabine, Alaska
scats were seen on high places along with fur from both Lemmus & Dicrostonyx.
1 June Pete saw one across the river last night and I saw one this a.m. They bark frequently and the noise carries well. It sounds like a small dog. One of my census stakes had been broken and a fox scat was on it. Scats are abundant on the high spots and owl mounds.
3 June When the fog lifted and I saw the traps lines in the evening, the tundra was radiant and there was no wind. The pair of foxes were hunting on Caribou Mt. and another pair ~~was~~ seen across the river. A fifth was seen first by Pete on ~~the~~ bluff back of camp and later we watched it proceed up river. There ~~then must be~~ was a sixth near Falcon Rock. There then must be at least 4 pairs in the area.
4 June Heard ~~one~~ on bluff near bear carcass.
5 June One was on sand bar near old campsite when we came over the hill. It proceeded to swim across the river very slowly. It hardly bothered to shake when it climbed out. My theory that the river is a barrier is shot!

Childs
1958

# alopex lagopus

11 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Foxes were quiet this evening after the heavy rain this afternoon. It was quite light and sunny when we ran traps which may have more to do with their activity than the rain. An occasional call was heard.

19 June Saw one on top of mountain across river. They are now definitely less abundant than 2 weeks ago.

22 June Heard a pair plus a 3rd which sounded like a pup calling to one another during the night last night.

29 June 2 calling last night. One came to the ridge behind tent and scolded us apparently.

27 June See caribou

5 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Not seen or heard. Why?

20 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
I heard one bark in the fog last night.

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One or two heard calling out on Second Ridge

3 August Pete found a den with 4 openings towards Wolverine Mt. 2 foxes were close by and he chased one, getting within 30 ft of it. Set traps for it.

4 Aug Pete found a second set of ? dens along the creek past 2nd Ridge and chased a yellowish fox, different from the earlier one,

Childs
1958

Alopex

4 Aug.

around trying to get it into the den so he could snare it but with no success. ~~That~~

5 Aug He set 2 traps here, leaving 4 at the other dens

7 Aug I checked the traps and found a fox caught by both front & hind feet. While trying to tie it up, he caught me on the thumb, breaking the ~~skin~~ in three small places. It will be shipped to Barrow for experimental work and saved later.

8 Aug Pete found another male on Owl Ridge that wanted to sleep when Pete tried to chase it down a hole.

20 Aug Heard one call last night. Ed played tag with one a few days ago along the beach bluff.

14 Aug Pete trapped another ♂, this in the first dens found.

CHILDS
1951

Wolf
Canis lupus

Aug 5 East Oumalik, 110 mi. SSE Barrow, Alaska

Large canid tracks have been seen throughout the camp and along the stream so that it was not too surprising to see the animal along the stream to the east of camp. We were cutting across a meander so he did not see or hear us until we were about 100 yds away. He jumped up the bank & stopped on the bluff and looked at us so that I had time to load a ball shot into the 16 gauge but the shot went high. The wolf ran and was across the next ox-bow before we got over the rise.

Childs
1957

Canis lupus

20 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Tracks seen on mud flat.

7 July I was surprised not to find or see any evidence of wolves following the tremendous herd of caribou seen yesterday.

19 July Camp A - Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Tracks seen along river with regularity on trip down. Still seems no reason why we haven't seen any following the various herds of caribou.

Childs
1958

Canis lupus

3 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete saw fresh tracks at the mouth of the river.

5 June Fresh tracks near old campsite this a.m.

3 July Saw one at about 7 miles inland crossing stream on trip from plane. It was very black, more black than any I have ever seen skins of

5 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine Alaska
Fresh tracks seen along the river!

13 July " " " 5 mi up the North fork

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Wolf tracks are common along the river more so than inland

20 July Pete saw a brown one about 200 ft out of camp this morning after I left for trapline. It left when he put a shot in the gun.

22 July On a heavily willowed meander a mile or so downstream we found many wolf tracks and heavily traveled trails. This is probably the spot we saw the black one from the plane.

28 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Several tracks at end of bar were made since we left on July 3.

20 Aug Glenn Harding shot a black one, probably the one seen on July 3 across the river. It had 3 Microtus and a piece of bear meat in stomach. Apparently curiosity brought it in gun range.

Child.
1960

Canis lupus

June 2 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

a badly molting grey wolf came down stream across the river on the terrace. Merle with his accostomed accuracy and range, scared it with three shots before it fled back upstream.

Childs
1957

Vulpes fulva

20 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

I found a skull at the cabin on 6/14. Today Henry Brower and I saw fresh tracks across river from camp.

Childs
1959

# Vulpes fulva

7 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
a pair woke me by barking close to the tent at 0400.

Childs
1963

Vulpes fulva

28 July Cape Thompson, Alaska
At least 2 were seen around camp in the evening. One ran thru about 30' from mess hall door. Both were molting, one heavily that looked horribly!

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Saw one near midnight along edge of river across from camp.

31 July A "cross fox" came down almost to the flat behind tent. We heard jaeger scolding something so went out to investigate. I missed two shots but scared the hell out of it! It was quite dark.

Childs Felis lynx
1958

25 May Wainwright, Alaska

Rausch has obtained several skulls and about 12 records of lynx taken near here in the last two years

Childs
1955

Gulo luscus

July 17 Wainwright, Alaska

Hahn trapped one near Wainwright last winter.

Childs
1957

# Gulo luscus

20 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

While I was skinning birds this p.m. Harry Brower went to see the Eskimos camped on the bar. On his way back he saw a Wolverine across the river opposite the tents. This was confirmed by the other Eskimos when I went down after supper to get the crane. Why do these things happen to me!

12 July A big Wolverine was almost opposite the tent at 1205. Merle got 2 shots at it but missed. Another smaller one was seen at the same time on the bluff up river (a cub?).

Childs
1958

Gulo luscus

3 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete saw fresh tracks at the mouth of the river.

4 June I walked up One mile creek to a high rounded hill which henceforth shall be known as Wolverine Mt. and was sitting looking the countryside over and enjoying the pleasant sunshine when I noted a small dark wolverine that was downwind from me although several hundred feet lower. It smelled me and ran, pausing every few moments to gaze and smell for me. It disappeared along the creek where there may be a den. About 10 minutes later I spotted another in the opposite direction hunting among the tussocks. They, like the foxes, always seem to run or lope along. There was no doubt that he was after mice or birds nests from his searching activity. This one was bigger and much lighter than the other one. Either one I could have shot had I the rifle with me.

11 June Merle saw one on lagoon on way in today.

Childs
1958

Gulo

5 July Pitmegea River, 16 miles SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Fresh tracks were seen along the river upstream from camp.

16 July One was seen hunting along the edge of the larger lake in the tall sedge. It went thru water without hesitating shaking it off without a pause. Periodically it would stop and sit up to look around.

22 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Tracks seen downstream

30 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Tracks indicate passage of one during our absence at lower end of bar. We set 2 old Eskimo dead-fall traps for these on mountain across the river.

2 August Saw one coming up river across from tent at hill. It continued across to a couple of hundred feet below where we killed bear and where there was lots of meat cached but it apparently didn't smell it.

5 Aug Pete saw a wolverine on Owl Ridge but it got away and spooked 11 caribou when they winded it.

CHILDS
1951

# Least Weasel
## Mustela rixosa

June 22 Point Barrow, Alaska
I found fresh sign in old hut at the point.
July 13 I found an old nest which appeared to be a lemming nest enlarged & lined with lemming fur. Lots of droppings around it, well worn.

Childs
1957

Mustela erminea

20 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

A skull with a mass of white fur was found at the gyrfalcon outcrop. Skull saved for specific identification

16 Aug Found a lower jaw of this or Least Weasel on lithosol to W of Jaeger ridge

Childs
1959

Mustela sp

18 July Wainwright, Alaska
Found a skull in snowy owl pellet on ridge.

1 Aug. Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Took a Dead. Least Weasel in T4. Mahe found a young one around July 13. and is raising it — named "Panuck"

Childs
1960

*Mustela rixosa*

June 3 Barrow, Alaska

Watched a weasel go like greased lightning after a lemming. When first seen it was swimming thru a puddle about 4' across. It hit lemming feeding on the far side. It was all over before one could realize what was happening. Tried to catch it but had no luck - it was too fast.' This was on beach ridge near exclosures.

Childs
1955

Walrus

July 16 Wainwright, Alaska

The ice moved in during the early morning and the eskimos went off hunting. Several hours later they returned with walrus and tales of huge numbers of them. I talked my way into going and this was a mixed blessing. We went out in a skin oomiak and as I was not dressed for it, we took in some water, mainly on me. After we got out into the pack ice the wind dropped + the sun came out. On stopping we could hear the walrus making an eery grunting noise in the distance. We spotted them ~~on~~ a large piece and rode up to 200yds + hauled the oomiak up on the ice. A ridge protected us from view so we could crawl up to 50' from the head of 30±. I took pictures while the boys shot 4. We then had coffee and tied the ~~ff~~ to the boat + started back. The wind from the south had moved the ice so we had to go north before cutting into shore + south to the village. It took me hours to get warm again upon return at 2345. There must have been over 1000 walrus out there.

July 17 Many walrus (100+) in sight from shore on ice ½ mi out. It is Sunday so no one hunts.

Childs
1959

Walrus
Odobenus rosmarus

15 July Enroute to Barrow from Pitmegea
Many on beach without heads. 3 seen with tusks.

16 July Barrow, Alaska
2 seen with small block of ice apparently being chased by Killer whale.

31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
a young ♀ washed up on beach N of river. Skull collected.

Childs
1955

Bearded Seal

July 16 Wainwright, Alaska

Several seen swimming among the ice offshore.

Childs 1958

# Bearded Seal
## *Erignathus barbatus*

26 May Wainwright, Alaska
Rausch ~~[illegible]~~ learned of one taken at the whaling camp.

4 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete saw 2 on ice near mouth of river

9 June We saw one about ½ mile offshore on ice. Pete hunted it with no luck.

12 June Saw one in water at river mouth in ice

Childs
1959

*Erignathus barbatus*

5 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One large adult ♀ washed ashore on beach.

Childs
1963

Erignathus barbatus

9 August Barrow, Alaska

Dick Holmes found one in the a.m. at least 200 yds up on the tundra from the south fork of Oopik Slough. We went out in the p.m. and collected it. I leaved it but as we could not think what to do with it at the lab, decided to shoot it instead. We heaved it on top of the weasel where it bled profusely over everything, no instruction but got it back to the Lab. Dick & I skinned it and I autopsied it. There were no obvious reasons for it being so lethargic. No gross pathology of internal organs. Perhaps 30-50 small roundworms in stomach and a few small tapeworms in the ileum were found which seem to be a light load of parasites. We took the skin and complete skeleton. My number 5115.

Erignathus barbatus
Bearded Seal

Childs
1958

Ring Seal
Phoca hispida

26 May Wainwright, Alaska
One had been obtained at one of the whaling camps. Rausch obtained the skulls.

4 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete saw many of this species on the ice near the river's mouth.

? June Saw up to 50 scattered over the ice off the river. Pete hunted but got none. Saw one Spotted Seal

12 June Numbers still present on ice but harder to get to.

24 June One seen at river mouth.

Childs
1959

*Phoca hispida*

5 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
One washed up on beach.

Childs
1958

Harbor or Spotted Seal

*Phoca vitulina*

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

One of this was seen at the mouth of the river. I was seated on the bank as it slowly drifted out to sea. It was identified as this species on the basis of the size of head, very large, and distribution at this time of year. It could not be Ring seal. It was unlikely a Bearded seal and Ribbon seal less likely.

Childs
1960

Ringed Seal

28 May Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Many (100±) sunning themselves on the ice off-shore.

CHILDS
1951

Spotted Seal

June 26 Point Barrow, Alaska
Setzer & Pete got one out on the ice

Spotted Seal
is
Phoca largha
per Wilson + Reeder
2nd Ed.

Childs
1957

# Ursus horribilis

Jun 10 Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

One seen on the lagoon ~~north~~ east of the river and another in the stream just west of Lig A.

20 June Tracks seen on mud flat near river mouth.

29 June Fresh tracks seen in mud at Falcon Rock since rain 3 days ago

10 July We got our first look at one in drainage to NW of Loon Marsh on our way to Thetis Creek. It smelled us first as we were upwind and ran like hell for as far as we could see!

12 July One came pass our water hole during the night but did not go after the caribou near the tent. One of our trap bags was torn and traps scattered at $T_6$-10. Two traps were chewed — probably by a grizzly.

19 July Camp A. Pitmegea River, [?] mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Tracks seen here and along west of the river when looked for.

4 Aug. One came over bluff 500 feet from us. See account under Rangifer.

10 Aug Fresh tracks less than 24 hrs old were seen across the river.

Childs
1958

# Ursus horribilis

31 May — Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

While working near camp, Pete spotted a bear on the ice just this side of the cabin. It was so light that he thought it was a young Polar Bear. We got guns and headed that way. The bear, however was headed our way along the bluff so all we had to do was wait in its path. It came over a rise at about 100' and saw us and stopped. Pete shot it in the chest. It ran about 200' and died. It was a male with the following measurements 1680-160-290-120. Its muzzle was smeared with grease of some kind and in its stomach were found one ~~Microtus~~ oeconomus, a fish gill filament, and about 2 fistfuls of caribou hair. The bear had almost no subcutaneous fat.

3 June — Watched some Caribou on far mountain spook and run to West Marsh. 10± min later a bear came over Owl Ridge headed straight for the river. He turned and went along it for a few yards and then headed west in a hurry. We were ready on the river bluff but my scent on the trap line scared him off! In checking trap line couldn't find ~~bear~~ tracks on ~~distinguish~~ bear tracks

childs
1958

V. horribilis

1 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Tracks of adult with cub were seen along river by cabin.

18 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Tracks of a small one seen

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
After supper I spotted a black object which I thought at first was a Moose on the slope of the mountain across and slightly upstream. The weather was quite foggy and it was quite dark. Closer examination with binoculars showed it to be a bear. We dressed and took after it. By this time the bear had moved to a point near the owl mound at the top and proceeded to lie down and go to sleep while we watched. Although it occasionally looked out in our direction it did not see or hear us and there was no wind. We climbed the far side of the ridge and shot it at 16 paces. It came up a roaring but Pete hit it in the backbone and the shotgun got it in the thorax. Pete was convinced it was a Black Bear from the color and size of head but I saw the hump and measurements later showed it to be a large black male grizzly. It took us several hours to skin it as both our

Childs
1958

U. horribilis

29 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
knives were dull & the stone was in my kit upstream. It had a very full stomach containing 3-4 ground squirrels eaten essentially whole, 1 Microtus miurus (which indicates it had been inland, parts of a Caribou fawn as well as old fur & skin, some Arctostaphylos berries and a lot of grass. altogether I would say about 3 gallons of material. The following day I returned and skeletonized it, feeling that Ward Russell would like that.

Childs
1959

Ursus horribilis

15 July Barrow from Pitmegea.
One seen at beginning of spit between Ling Pt
and Pt. Lay.

Childs
1959

Killer whale
*Grampus rectipinna*

16 July | Barrow, Alaska
One seen off beach after 2 walrus.

31 July Pt. Lay, Alaska
Schalk identified whale on beach to south as this species.

Childs
1959

Whales

15 July Enroute to Barrow from Pitmegea River
One small whale, ~~probably~~ Killer ~~gray whale~~, seen washed up south of Pt. Lay. Another much larger, probably Bowhead, seen on beach south of Skull Cliff.

19 July 5 or more large black whales were seen this a.m. while I was on trapline.

21 July Wainright, alaska
at least 5 offshore ± 1 mile seeming to feed along the edge of the muddy water spreading out from the inlet.

3 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
4-5 offshore.

7 Aug Several regularly offshore - probably Gray. Maher found shrimp abundant along shore — also Capelin.

Childs
1958

# Delphinapterus leucas

21 May Barrow, Alaska

Rausch has obtained the guts and skulls of the two white whales taken in the village. He obtained a 2" embryo from the larger of the two.

24 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

We were treated to a most unusual sight at the mouth of the river when we returned from the lagoon. There was a school of Beluga which I estimated at 50+ and Solomon as "hundreds". They were just taking it easy on the surface, blowing occassionaly, but apparently just lazily circling around on the surface. We got to the edge and fired, Merle with the 30-30 and I with 16 ga #1 buck at one at about 10 ft range but with apparently no success. The herd left immediately upon hearing our shots for the ice which had come back in at about ½ mile. We could hear them blowing long after they were out of sight. As usual the camera was at home!

CHILDS
1951

CARIBOU
Rangifer arcticus

July 16 Point Barrow, Alaska

One big buck was seen running across 88 with its mouth open. A short while later two men in a weasel shot another off to the south which we saw later. It was a ♂ in velvet with no palmation on the antlers; a very small animal. It is a pity that such killing goes on when the numbers of these animals are so reduced.

Aug 7 East Oumalik, 110 mi SSE Barrow, Alaska

During the week at this locality we did not see any of these animals and only old scats + tracks. At the lake there were four skins near the wind sock which I took to have been discarded by Arcon men who found out that they were illegal.

Childs
1955

Rangifer arcticus

July 8 Atkasuk, Meade River, Alaska

We were awakedby shots of the Eskimos at 3 Caribou 500 yds back of the village. Later Frank + I found a calf alone and soon it wentover to two dressed carcasses of a ♂ + ♀ adult.

Father Ed reported a herd of 6 south of the village.

Burnell said ~~two~~ years ago there were thousands on the flat across the river. This was confirmed later by Mrs. Brown.

July 15 Wainwright Alaska

Natives getting them near here regularly.!

July 23 Hot + windless. Tracks of 2 on beach within village limits this morning. Got within 75' of one when running traps line!

Childs
1957

Rangifer arcticus

June 7 Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska
Saw a herd of 8 and one single to the north of the Eskimo village from the plane.

June 10 Enroute to Wainwright, Alaska
Saw 200-300 in herds of 5 & 30 from Wainwright to Pitmegea River. In the valley of Pitmegea there were two herds of 14 & 24.

Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
20 June 3 seen way up river.
28 June Eskimos got 3 - probably those seen 6/20.
29 June 18 moving to lagoon in late afternoon, a result of warm weather and mosquitoes
3 July 4 moved along the coast in the land of fog this morning while Merle Solomon + I set out $T_5 + T_6$. Merle went for gun but they got passed him to the west.
6 July See Journal. a herd of from 10 to 25,000 surrounded us this morning. the effect on the marsh was spectacular. Along the transects 210 out of 306 were set off and the vegetation everywhere was trampled. It was easy to see how the "caribou trails" develop as there were areas where they had developed overnight that will take years to erase. It would not take a herd of this size more than a few days to damage the vegetation more than the microtines in a summer high. Again this is a situation which differs from Barrow as Barrow has probably never been invaded by a fraction

Childs
1957



# Rangifer

6 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

of the caribou seen here. Merle says that he has never seen a herd anywhere near this size and he has had much more experience than I, yet not as much as a real Eskimo. The protective cover of the Arctophila - Carex marsh has been severely damaged and I wonder if it can recover enough to provide the cover and food necessary for the summer build-up to be expected in that area. Only time and close observation will tell. I cannot help but be tremendously impressed with what I saw today which may be the only time this summer that this phenomenon may occur. Tomorrow they may be gone entirely. If I had left yesterday this factor in arctic biology would have been ignored or at best treated lightly.

7 July The caribou had essentially left by midnight last night. I am wondering if their droppings might compare to the lemming totals of 1955 at Barrow

10 July Evidence of numbers of caribou everywhere on way to Hatties Creek. Two herds of 10-15 crossed river south of camp at 1000.

19 July Camp A. Pitmegea River, mi. SE Cape Sabine, Alaska

Tracks seen everywhere. 2 herds last night of 15 each

Childs
1957



# Rangifer

19 July Pitmegea River, mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
moving up wind a mile to the NW of camp. Two single calves were seen today (7/20) apparently lost from the herd. Here, as well as at the base camp the impact of the hooves is tremendous and everywhere we have been except in very highly developed Tussock Wet Meadow —

23 July There is no area along the river where there are no tracks.

Aug. 2 Saw a bull on the far ridge to the East and took after it. There were three of which we got two, one apiece! The one I got came toward me, jumping up in the air trying to get the scent from the air coming over the ridge. It never saw me.

Aug. 4 A herd of 75± was spread over Loon marsh some of which ran towards Caribou Ridge as we came over the bluff near T. Within a few moments the whole herd ran off towards the NW, we thought, frightened by us. It turned out to be a grizzly that 5-10 minutes later came over the ridge 500 feet from us. Neal shot at it but it ran up river and escaped. It is strange that the caribou were so frightened by a predator as slow as a grizzly.

5 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Two small groups of 6 & 7 feeding out pass Owl ridge this p.m. The remains of the two we shot had only been fed on slightly by jaegers and one gull was seen. No evidence of large mammals.

6 Aug About 500 on far mountain moving this way up wind. 7 moved across owl ridge. We got two along the beach near the cabin, one of which swam out in the ocean and drowned.

7 Aug 11 ♀♀ and young on Owl ridge

10 Aug 15 on mountain pass Owl Ridge

Childs
1958

# *Rangifer arcticus*

30 May — Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Four small herds of 20, 10, 15, and 10 were seen in distance back of study area. They were in winter coat and appeared white

31 May — 5 seen at far end of mountain. Wind changed to south.

1 June — three ran along river's edge across from tent as Pete + I had our morning's constitutional. 2 small bands seen on mountain

2 June — 5 seen on ridge up river.

3 June — 6 were spooked by grizzly and ran to West Marsh. We expected to find them near the cabin but they saw us first. 7 others were on the mountain.
Pete picked up a Reindeer antler which he identified by size (I guess) and the fact that parts had been sawed off, he said, to make it easier to lasso.

4 June — 8 on caribou Mt. and 4 across river. I walked to Wolverine Mt and then across to Caribou Mt. in the p.m. The tussocks were larger + higher than on Loon Marsh but the effect of continued caribou use of the vegetation in between was obvious. There was little.

Childs
1958

Rangifer

4 Jun Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Much bare soil was evident. On the higher slopes lichens and mosses were dominant with scattered Cassiope, a "deep snow" community (I wonder about this?). With the brown-ness of the lower marshes and cottongrass with no willows leafed out yet, it is no wonder that the caribou are staying on the upper slopes. Many of the lichens are bright green and appear very succulent. These beasts sure have beat hell out of the tundra around Caribou Mt.

5 Jun 14 headed up river from Caribou Mt. None seen the rest of the day

7 June Pete got 2 across the river thin on

8 Jun After running traps we saw a single ♂ across the river limping. Pete shot with third shot in the thorax with two misses which the animal never heard or moved. It ran maybe 10 yards and dropped. We then went over and got all 3.

♂ 2706 had 35 Warbles mostly on the rump. Many of them appeared in the meat and only a few in the skin. All were small

Childs
1958

# Rangifer

8 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

♂ 2807 had 59 again mostly on rump on either side of the midline. About 10 appeared large enough to be ready to leave.

♂ 2808 had 119 (48 right - 71 left) evenly distributed from rump to shoulder. This one had 31 Nostril fly larvae in a pocket in the back of the naso-pharynx. They were in a mass ½ the size of my fist. 4+ hours later they were still moving slightly in a mixture of 70% ROH and Bouins. All were saved.

A number of Warble fly larvae in various stages were preserved.

10 June 8 near Wolverine Mt.

12 June 4 across river.

19 June 40 behind mt. across river. No fawns seen.

20 June 40+ near Falcon Rock and 50+ near Wolverine Mt. 7 came in near Bluff + Merle shot at them at ½ mile! North wind + caribou all over.

21 June Hunted 10 across river on first terrace. They saw us leave but then bedded down when we got below river bank. Merle circled but they saw him at ½ mile but he still shot!

Childs 1958

# Rangifer

21 Jun Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

Hunted 2 herds, one of 10 and the other 16 across the river

22 Jun One single came across the river while we were still in bed. Merle heard it and shot from tent but missed! About 1600 saw 2 across river. I got the bull. No nostril flies and few warbles left. The ♀ left and the bull fed without keeping much watch. I approached easily and got 2 good shots in it. It seems easier to hunt a single than the herd.

27 Jun See following page

Solomon shot 4 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀. No nostril flies found in any of them. Very few larvae of warble fly left but abundant scars seen.

178 on one ♂

Calculation of herd size

Herd passed on 1.6 mile front

I counted on .4 mile

3 counts 85, 67, 73 = M = 75/2 min

75/2 min = 2250/hr.

1.6 m = 9000/hr

9000/hr for 12 hours = 108,000

Childs
1958



27 June Kutovegea River, Cape Sabine Alaska

The vangard of what turned out to be the large herd of July 6th last year was sighted near the cabin at about 1130. Soloman took off and with about 25 shots got 6, one of which was black, being almost completely molted. His activity and mine apparently turned the left flank of the advancing herd so that instead of crossing near our camp as they did last year, they quartered the wind and moved generally eastward up the river valley and south slope. I went out to 2nd ridge and soon the caribou were all around me. I lay in the lee of an outcrop and observed and took pictures of animals from 20 ft. The wind was from the north so the caribou over the ridge toward Caribou Mt. were spooked. After shooting all my film and watching for 2 hours I returned to the tent for food and film and then returned, built a good blind at 1530. Only one fawn was seen in 5-10,000 seen earlier. No avian predators were seen with the exception of L.T. Jaegers which might have

27 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
been resident on the area anyway. A badly molting Arctic Fox passed thru the herd from Owl Ridge, observed but ignored by the caribou. It no sooner reached 2nd Ridge when it was attacked and chased out of sight by another fox with a more nearly complete brown summer pelage. Godwits and Golden Plover were active in scolding caribou which apparently came too near nest or young.
1545 herd now around me. About 100 ♀. Earlier they were mainly males. The molt is starting. Muzzles are black and hair falling in many places. Many more now - 500-1000. 2 fawns seen, one ♂, 3 fawns/10♀. One limping bull. Raining now. Impossible to count now - too many. 3 more fawns. Fawns abundant now, every small group has one or two. Fawn trying to jump on ♀ rear for a ride? One coughing badly. Many fawns now. Much belching and flatulance. Fawns give a belch-like call for mother ♀ grunt in return. Much gas expelled as they go down off ridge. Many shots taken at 20 ft. Knot flew over.

child
1958



27 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Camera click frighters them but they run only a few yards. Changing sheets of paper alert them also. One fawn with grey underparts instead of cream. Rust on top. 1625 not much feeding. Fawn with lost mother pawed dirt. Herd in steady movement toward the river. Most feeding in the tussocks and sedge meadow. Estimate 5000 to have passed between 2nd and Owl Ridges since I returned here. Fawn came to blind, nuzzled lichens on rocks. I could have touched it. ♀ almost stepped on me, sent rocks sliding down into blind. Fawn with bumps on head. Several adults and fawns seen eating Cassiope. 1635 rain stopping and the herd is slowing down and doing more feeding. One big black buck mostly thru molt has tremendous set of antlers. The feeding among the tussocks does not seem to be directed to E. vaginatum but to the stuff in between tussocks.
Another badly coughing one, this one a ♀.
1648-50: 85 passed in 2 min along a line from here to Owl Ridge. Herd only feeding slowly.

Childs
1958

Rangifer

8

27 Jun Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
1712-14 : 67 : 1653-55 : 73.
Male scratching tip of antler on lower part of hind foot which was held up in the air — a ridiculous sight. Then it scratched chin which was molting on forequarter.
Some fawns are very rusty, both above and below. Is this a sign of youth which is lost as they grow? I suspect so and if so, then some of these might have been born today. They don't appear to be very old.
1715 Wind NE. Rain stopped. Cold nip to the air. Heard joints clicking as Harper Banfield? describes it. 3rd case of antler scratching on metatarsal gland.
1730 fawn tail up, calling, ran circling at 50-100 ft around its mother. Apparently play.
1740 Wind stopped. Not much movement now between here and Owl Ridge. Herd thinning out but many thousands still in sight to the west. This herd must be close to 100,000.
1646 ♀ stopped to smell + watch me over the hill and fawn took the opportunity to nurse. It butted the udder like a calf. Very little movement now. Herd feeding and in some areas are bedded down. Left at 1800.
2400 Some still present although main herd has passed.

Childs 1958 — Rangifer 

30 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
A single ♀ was seen bedded down near Owl Ridge on way to Wolverine Mt. It was feeding near 2nd Ridge when I came over it on the way back and ran picking up new fawn on the way

3 July Herd of 175+ across river.

5 July Pitmegea River, 16 mile SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
One, apparently somewhat crippled, seen across the river.

6 July A single, band of 7, and herd of 300 seen up the north fork of Pitmegea, the herd was seen at the top of a high hill where it may have been avoiding the mosquitoes

13 July 6 seen at great distance

19 July Pitmegea River, 7 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
One bull seen feeding along bank vegetation.

3 August Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
Pete got one ♂ of 4 which returned with the north wind today.

5 Aug Pete got 3 ♂ out past 2nd ridge. He saw 11 others spooked by a wolverine

4 Aug Pete saw ♀ + fawn on Crater Mt.

5 Aug got an adult warble fly on skin of caribou. Pete saw 3 on one of the others. This is the same fly I swatted in my hair a few days ago. It looks very much like the bumble bees & this ...

Childs
1958

# Rangifer

6 Aug Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

One adult bull on caribou ht. when we went out to get rest of animal shot yesterday.

9 Aug One big bull seen on mountain. Pete shot one just over the ridge from camp. It had many warble fly eggs on the skin of the chest and both upper legs. Its feet were rough and swollen and the right front hoof was cracked. It had bruises on both upper legs, Pete thought from this that he had been in the mountains and had fallen on its chest. Although no adult warble flies were on its skin one landed on each of us while we skinned it.

9/1/59

To:

Henry Childs

Bill Marr

Arl.

Caribou location & date:

Location: About 50 miles east of Point Hope on line from Point Hope to Umiat.

Date: June 26, 1959.

Herd: Many thousand w/ calves.

Next time I will keep both eyes open & try to do a better job.

Sincerely,

Leo F. Fay

Geologist

Richfield Oil Corp.

Childs
1959

Rangifer arcticus

16 June Barrow, Alaska

Sadlerochit River. Tom Cade reported seeing 300-400 in small bands moving north. Mostly cows with calves. Perhaps a dozen bulls in all. Pilot saw them a week earlier.

17 June Flight to Meade River Coal Mine then East to Oliktok Point.

2 groups (5, 10) seen on trip to The Meade south where more than 50% tundra open. 4 groups seen on return from Colville in similar open, + dry areas (2, 5, 1, 9).

Cade reported that Sig Olson had located calving ground to east of Noluck Lake last year. Also that Mahr had seen 30,000 in Romanzoff Mt. at the same time.

21 June Pitmegea River to Cape Thompson & return

No caribou seen until south of Liz A. Small bands of up to 40 and perhaps Total 300 seen between Pitmegea and Corwin Mine and inland to headwaters of Ipewik R. One group of 25 was bedded down on snow near marmot den. A red fox was seen watching them. We saw no caribou on trip along Kukpowruk R - Kukpuk R & Cape Thompson & return via Ipewik until near the headwaters of the latter. Trails here were oriented as per attached map.

Rangifer

Childs
1959

22 June Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
about 60 in several bands seen in area.
23 June about 75 seen Wolverine Mt.
24 June about 400 in three bands were near camp this morning with north wind. Maher got movies. No calves seen in any of the herds to date.
25 June about 1500 scattered from Caribou Mt to marmot Ridge. Two calves seen. Main concentration was along Willow Creek. Mostly resting + feeding. I collected a yearling ♂ across river from tent. All warble flies gone and relatively few holes or scars seen.
26 June About 1/2 (700) of yesterdays herd still around. They bed down on the warm south facing slopes.
27 June about 30 seen headed west, quartering the wind
28 June None seen today.
4 July about 10 east of Willow Creek
10 July Pitmegea River, 16 mi SE Cape Sabine, Alaska
Tracks were common in mud from Tri in. There were not enough however to indicate passage of a big herd inland.
Shetler reported seeing about a dozen groups of caribou on the trip down. The last group numbered 100-200. These were all on the plain. Perhaps "the herd" did not head as far south this year.
12 July Wainwright Alaska
Several hundred seen inland near site recently -

## Rangifer



31 July — Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

10 seen today. Maher reports few seen since I left.

7 Aug. — A yearling "rocking horse" passed along far. Warble fly adults seen & heard several times on tundra last few days.

Childs
1963

# Rangifer tarandus

1 Aug Pitmegea River Cape Sabine Alaska

None seen during 3 day stay but evidence of big herd [that?] had passed through earlier this year was everywhere. Tundra honeycombed with trails and vegetation smashed. Ridge behind camp was heavily chewed up where large numbers had come down to the bar.

Two very small ♀♀ were killed at Cape Thompson 7-28 by AEC. There was hardly any meat on them at all.

Childs
1963

Ovibos moschatus

12 July Bernard River, Banks Island, NWT, Canada

Maher has found 5 skulls + partial skeletons. No live ones seen. Canadians at Sachs reported herd of 200 40 miles east of there. Zoologist from Ottawa measured 165 skulls on Muskox River 2 weeks ago.

# H. E. Childs
1951-1963

## Alaska

## Species Accounts Part 2

Fish

Childs 1958

# Humpback Salmon

Salmo ________

28 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
As we approached camp we saw several large fish and finally I spot one as it went over a shallow bar, it proving to be Humpback Salmon. Numbers proceeded up the river, some being in sight all the time, their humps or current ripples being obvious. As I have never seen salmon migrating, this was quite an exciting incident. I shot two and we had one for supper, to our regret as it was no dam good. Why this fish did not come in last year is a good question as I'm sure we would have seen them, they are so obvious. Pete says that they are never very good to eat, he having caught them over on the Colville.

29 July Always in evidence even from the tent

30 July This morning we could see them from the tent before breakfast but after breakfast, Pete called that we had to move the boat as the river was rising. By the time we got the stuff in the

Childs
1958

Salmo

30 July Patmegan River, Cape Sabine, Alaska

boat, we were on an island and within an hour there was 18-24" of water where we could walk across without get the leather of our shoepacks wet earlier. We could no longer see the salmon. This explains why we did not see them last year as we were upstream at this time and the August rains had swollen the stream on our return. I still hope to get one for a picture.

Childs
1959

Salmon sp?

31 July Pitmegea River, Cape Sabine, Alaska
First individuals of run seen.
4 Aug Run continues with fish trapped between riffles at our bar as upper riffle is impassable. Shot 2, a ♂ + ♀, for identification. There are thousands in river in space of 1000 ft. Glaucous gulls congregate at riffles during night but leave when we arise.

Childs
1959

grayling

23 July  Meade River Coal mine, Alaska

These fish are abundant in the stream near the landing strip, there being several in each "bead". The Eskimos, however, say there are not many because of the low water and that they expect good fishing in August when rains raise the river level.

7 8899